NATIONAL WEEKLY

Social Justice

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KEEP THE UNITED STATES OUT OF WAR
by
Dr. Edward Lodge Curran

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ELECTION DAY: A CONTRACT WITH THE VOTERS
Lawrence Lucey

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FROM THE TOWER
Father Coughlin

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ALONG THE POPULAR FRONT
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THE TRAGEDY OF SPAIN
Virginia McKay

•

THE WEEK IN THE NEWS

EWING GALLOWAY

ACME

REMEMBER THE DAY

ALL America this week will pause to remember the day, just 20 years ago, when a war-dazed world went mad with cheers for the waving white signal that meant peace. As liner after liner brought home "the victors," on crutches, on stretchers, or in caskets —the tear-stained faces waiting at the docks murmured in heart-breaking unison that, *truly, there never was a good war!*

Less than a month ago, the streets of London went festive, in as riotous a four-day celebration as the Strand has seen since 1918. Never, agreed London's millions—some of them stumbling, in their rejoicings, over dirt from the newly half-dug trenches—oh *never, indeed, was there a bad peace!*

But, as ever, the people did not reckon with the forces of internationalism. The World War was a "good war" for the internationalists, just as the Munich Peace was, to them, a "bad peace." Perhaps the World War did bring suffering or death to 37 million persons, while the Munich Peace avoided those millions of casualties —but THEY made millions out of the WAR, and not one penny from the peace.

Today—twenty years after the curtain-fall of our last war drama—the stage is set for re-enactment. And today, as in 1914, soft-spoken, mild-mannered Barney Baruch is directing preparations for the performance.

With the last war's debt still unpaid, with millions of our own worthy citizens wanting for the very necessities of living—we are going to spend $7½-billion to prepare America for a war. This time we will make South America safe for "democracy" — unless, of course, the people's Congress can prevent it.

The "real money" which could not be issued to pay the Soldiers' Bonus, which would not be issued for relief—is at last going to be issued—*for American destruction.*

Bells will ring next Friday—and whistles will blow as Americans remember—as they recall again the horrors of war and its deeds of carnage—as they reflect, perhaps, upon the utter uselessness of wholesale murder, or realize anew that mankind never "wins" a war.

But, whatever its thoughts, let America pause to remember—and remembering, resolve that its youth shall not again be sacrificed upon the scaffold of a $7½-billion plunder for the warmakers!

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Social Justice

NOVEMBER 7, 1938

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Vol. 2A No. 19

The New President of Social Justice Publishing Company Speaks

My dear Friends and Readers:

I welcome this opportunity to greet you in my new capacity as president of Social Justice Publishing Company.

During the regime of other presidents I was a constant contributor to the pages of this National Weekly and as such enjoyed the personal contact with you which was thus afforded me.

Henceforth this contact will be even more intimate. While it is my intention to remain aloof from endorsing all politicians and political parties, nevertheless, an opportunity is hereby afforded me, in my capacity as president of the publishing company as well as editorial counsel of the paper, to bring you more definite news colored with my own thoughts and philosophy.

As you know the National Union for Social Justice was disbanded in every State in the Union except Michigan. I retained the legal charter for Michigan following November, 1936, with the hope that on some future day I could rally the many followers of social justice into an organization which would be free from the influence of all middle men—between the people and myself. It is my belief that the propitious moment is now at hand for us to rise from sleep and to weld ourselves together for the defense of God and country.

At the present moment I am satisfied to tell you that we shall oppose Communism and every other foreign "ism" as strenuously as we possibly can; that we shall defend Christianity and Americanism with all our ability and power; and that we shall not repeat the error of aligning ourselves with any politician or any political party, because history has taught us that from politicians we can expect no redress.

The future of SOCIAL JUSTICE newspaper is in your hands. The multiplication of readers will depend upon your activity as well as upon the editorial content of the news weekly itself.

From time to time the activities of the National Union for Social Justice will be unfolded in these pages as we league together to defend the principles which we love and oppose the heresies which are obstructing the progress of Christianity and Americanism in our midst.

I am not intimating in this letter that it is my plan to formulate any inorganic, politically controlled, bickering organization such as existed previously. I would not have you extract from this letter the thought that I am about to call upon professional organizers and self-starting men to corral you into groups meaningless in purpose and meaningless in achievement. We have had enough of that.

With this general letter of introduction wherein I present myself to you as the new president of this company, I ask your prayers and your moral support as we evolve throughout the year, both on the radio and in this paper, our concept of Americanism and as we form our ranks to reduce into practice the philosophy which we love.

God bless everyone of you!

Charles E. Coughlin

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Keep the United States out of War!

By Dr. Edward Lodge Curran

America must not become the playground for the social hatreds of Europe. While yet one American Legionnaire remains to tell of the futile horror of war, our happy children must never be recruited for another Overseas Expeditionary Force!

Black Star

It was the day after four European Powers meeting in Munich had saved the world from the imminence of another world war "to make the world safe for democracy."

The terms of peace arrived at by France and England and Germany and Italy meant the severance from Czechoslovakia of German speaking areas, which France and England and Italy had bestowed upon the newly created buffer state of Czechoslovakia twenty years ago.

Those who attempt to think calmly, and not in the emotional atmosphere of Leftist ideologies, remember that Czechoslovakia was an artificial state from its very inception; it was but one of the victorious Allies' expressions of hatred and revenge towards the defeated Germans. Allied propagandists made much of the fact, during the World War, that their fight was against the German government and not against the German people.

It was the German people, however, who were punished and degraded at the close of the World War, and not the members of the German government. The "members of the government" saved their hides and much of their fortune. The Kaiser retired to Holland where he has been living calmly and securely for the past twenty years.

The German people remained, in a dismembered Germany and Austria, to be persecuted by huge and outlandish reparation payments that were never paid because they never could be paid. As part of the policy of revenge, which dictated the terms of the Peace Treaty of Versailles, German speaking areas of Austria were annexed to a newly created state consisting of Czechs and Slovaks. Hungarians also were forced into the household of the Czechoslovakian stepchild of the Allies. In 1920, while the Poles were fighting the Red Bolsheviks back from Warsaw, part of Poland itself, together with the Polish speaking inhabitants, was also annexed to Czechoslovakia.

These are facts that must occur to the mind of anyone who has lived through the tragic days of the World War and the even more tragic "post mortem" days of the Peace Treaty of Versailles.

Another point, which every Communist propagandist wishes to conceal in the present maelstrom of conflicting criticisms, is the fact that the Armistice, which ended the fighting, was signed by the Germans on the basis of Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points. Speaking in the name of the Allies, Woodrow Wilson promised that his Fourteen Points would form the basis of all future peace negotiations.

For that purpose Woodrow Wilson broke the presidential traditions of the United States and went to Paris. There he saw everyone of his Fourteen Points swept by the hands of Georges Clemenceau and Lloyd George into the waste paper basket of lost causes. Only Wilson's desire for the establishment of a League of Nations was maintained. Returning to the United States Wilson lived to see that desire repudiated by his own countrymen. American citizens then, as true American citizens now, preferred to follow the warning of George Washington against all entangling alliances.

THESE were the thoughts which coursed through my mind as I walked through the streets of Brooklyn on the day following the Munich conference.

Quite suddenly I came upon a playground. I stopped and looked at the children—American children—playing on the slides and the swings. Their faces were bright and happy. Their voices were strong and merry and endless.

There were Jewish boys and girls, and Protestant boys and girls, and Catholic boys and girls among them. There were boys and girls with the dark hair and olive skin of the Latins. There were boys and girls with a tinge of red in their hair and a bushelful of freckles on their cheeks, redolent with the atmosphere of the Gael. Blond heads and brown heads, long legs and short legs! A symphony of youth happy at their play in this land of the free where youth learns the magic of toys instead of the misery of firearms.

To the vast majority of them the names of Chamberlain and Daladier and the other signatories of the Munich Peace Pact meant nothing. There were no soldiers parading along the walls so that some innocent childish statement of "what Papa said" might be used to arrest the parent on suspicion.

They were happy children and free children. They were children from a section of the city where every race and every creed lives harmoniously, and where the only note of discord is that introduced by the alien propagandist who tries to transport the wars of Europe and Asia to America.

There was an intimate tugging at my heart strings as I watched them at their play. How long, oh Lord, I murmured, will their freedom be un-

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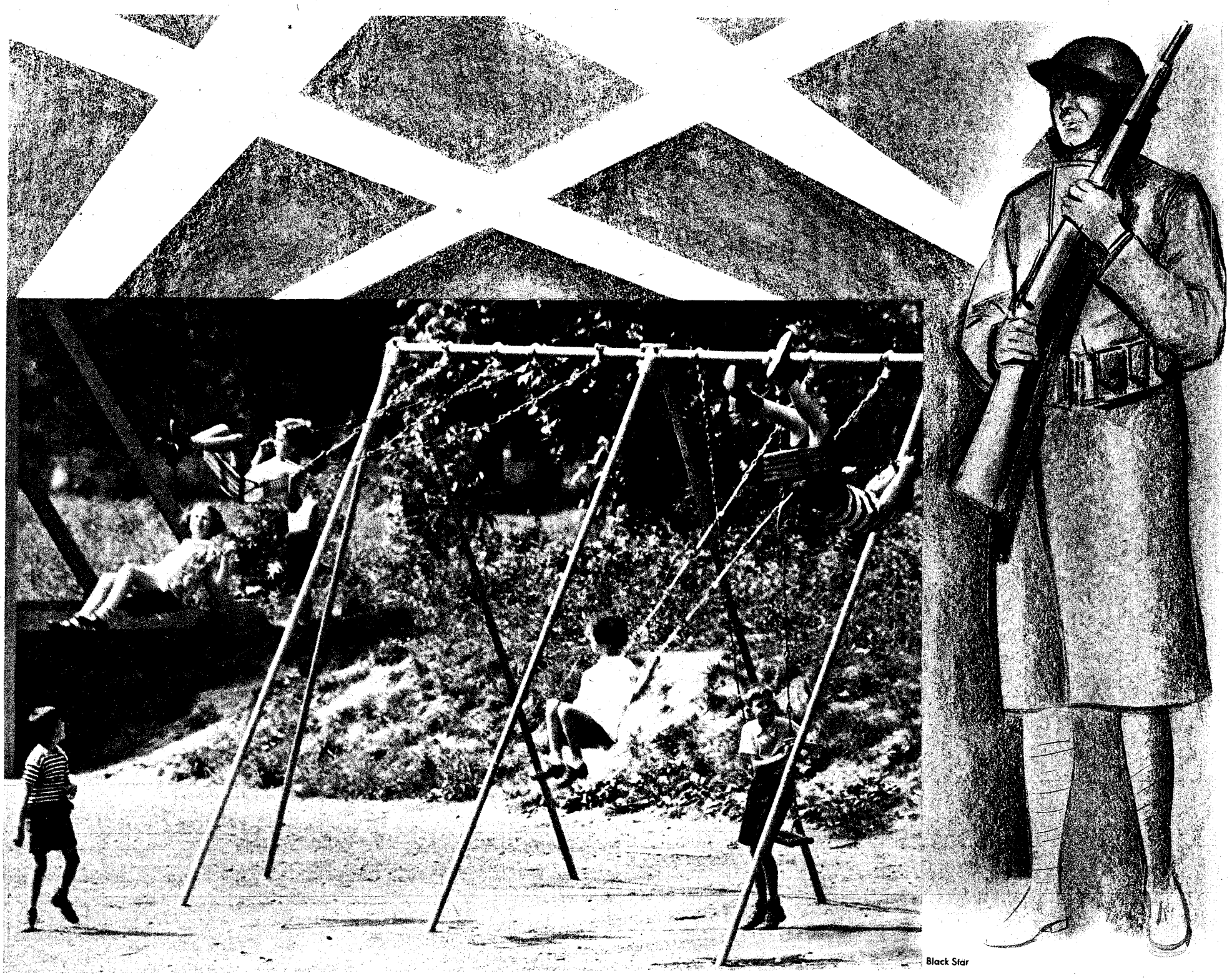

Black Star

hampered? For how many generations more will such happiness be guaranteed?

The answer was not long in coming. It is a simple answer and a clear one. Surely war is one of life's greatest evils. Surely such children as these must never be sacrificed upon the altar of Mars. Should the issue ever arise, they will want, I know, to defend their country against foreign invasion. But they must never be forced by munition makers or Communists or Leftist propagandists or war-mongering columnists like Dorothy Thompson, into any battlefield in Europe or Asia or Africa or elsewhere outside their beloved country.

And yet, there are some in this country who would send these generations of American children to wage European battles for causes beyond the sea. There are forces that would blight the lives of such American children by robbing them of their fathers and their older brothers, sent to bleed for foreign causes beneath foreign skies. There are foreign propagandists, newspaper columnists, editors and Communistic agents who would tear their homes apart and duplicate the tragedy and the terror and the hypocrisy of the World War twenty years ago!

THESE are the enemies of the youth of America. These are the wolves in sheep's clothing who prate of democracy with one breath and who urge this country to fight in Europe on the side of Soviet Russia, the enemy of democracy, with their next breath. These are the mad minority who denounce the America of Washington and praise the Russia of Stalin where more than 19-million men and women have been trained to bear arms, a greater military dynasty than the armed forces of England and France and Germany and Italy combined. These are the assassins who speak contemptuously of Chamberlain the Magnificent, whose Christian patience has saved millions of homes from the terror of international warfare.

It must have been the picture of some such playground scene as this which brightened the soul of the great English premier during the days when he pleaded for peace and during the hours when the strident voices of his own countrymen – and of "Anthony Adverse" Eden, in particular– were raised against him.

There is one policy on which all American citizens can unite and must unite. That is the policy of peace. That is the slogan: *"Keep the United States Out of War."*

The Communistic propagandists and Leftist orators of the United States are clever. Keep the United States out of war, they say, by keeping war out of the world. They do not mean what they say. If they did they would make every effort to keep the United States out of war, no matter what has happened or what may happen in Europe or Asia or Africa or the islands of the southern seas. The United States is a part of the world. To keep the United States out of war is to keep war out of a very large and a very influential part of the world. War cannot be kept out of the world unless we begin to keep war out of our part of the world. It is possible and it is necessary to keep war out of the United States. That is an American peace policy fraught with the greatest benefit and permeated with the greatest possibilities of spiritual leadership for the world in which we live.

The propagandists from the Left and the Dorothy-Thompsonite columnists want none of that. When they say we must keep the United States out of war by keeping war out of the world they mean that another World War must be fought; that the United States must participate in it; that the United States must give more money and more blood and more lives to England and France and all the others who took our money and kidnapped our youth in the last World War, and who never yet have exhibited their gratitude by attempting to pay a single cent of the money which they urged us to lend them.

THE generation shouting in the Brooklyn playground knows nothing of the last World War. To them it is merely history. Thank God, the generation that fought the last World War is still alive! Thank God, there are hundreds of thousands of American Legionnaires to tell of the slaughter and the brutality and the deceit and the terror and the hypocrisy and the futility of it all!

Here is a task which the American Legion might well adopt and bring to a successful conclusion. Every American Legionnaire must be a preacher of peace. Every American Legionnaire must adopt the slogan: "Keep the United States Out of War." Every American Legionnaire must warn the youth of today—the children playing in the sunlight and the adolescents facing the dawn of manhood and womanhood—against the national suicide of ever again becoming involved in a World War across the seas.

Why should these children grow up to fight for "another Czechoslovakia?" What is Czechoslovakia to us? It was not of our creation. We made no pact to defend it. Czechoslovakia was the stepchild of France and England and the rest of the Allies. It is their problem and certainly not ours. And, if we are wise, no other territorial or political problem of Europe or Asia will be listed on the agenda of things which we the citizenry of America should do to make our own country a happier place to live in.

The United States must not become the playground for the political or social or economic hatreds of Europe.

For the children whom I watched playing in the sunlight and for the generations of children who come after them there are two things that we must do.

First, we must bring to life a national regime of social justice where every member of our vast American population, irrespective of race or creed or color, will receive due measure of social and economic security and wherein all citizens will be spiritually and politically and economically bettered.

Secondly, to attain this regime of social justice, so desired by every thinking man and woman in America, the United States must be kept out of war. War sets the hands of the clock back. War means moral and social and economic degradation. That is the lesson which we should have learned from the last World War.

These children playing in the sunlight must not have been born in vain. Through social justice, and through keeping the United States out of war, we must make their world, which is the United States, a better and more peaceful place to live in.

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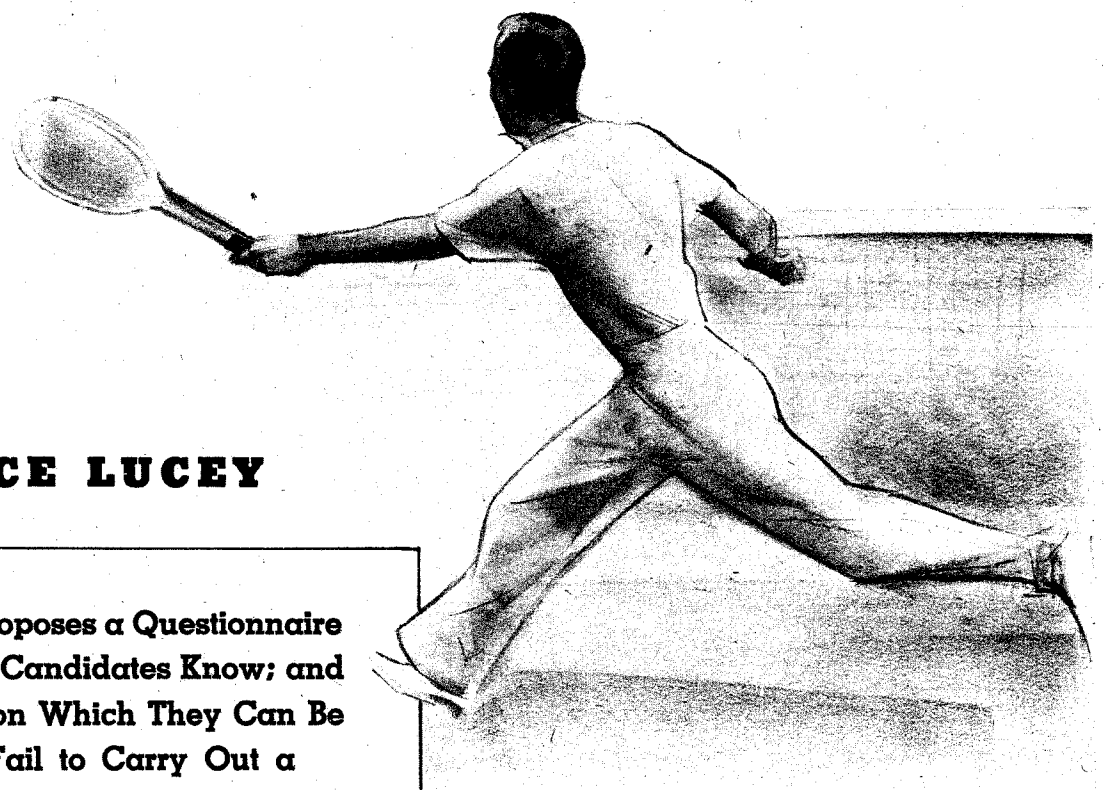
ELECTION DAY:

A CONTRACT WITH THE VOTERS



BY LAWRENCE LUCEY

A Veteran Voter Proposes a Questionnaire To Find Out What Candidates Know; and a Written Pledge on Which They Can Be Sued If They Fail to Carry Out a Campaign Promise.

SUNNING himself in a beach chair on the lawn just outside the tennis court wire when the match was over, Old Jim postponed my dash to the shower. As I lingered a moment to light a cigarette, Jim started talking about the election.

"Son, every time you and your opponent smashed a soft return of the tennis ball and nicked the back court line for a perfect placement, or put a trap shot just over the net, I recalled the sparkling simile of the Washington newspaper correspondent who likened our recent inexperienced appointee to the Supreme Court to 'a novice tennis player walking into a fast game.'

"In a few days," Jim went on, "a majority of our citizens will go to the polls to vote for men who will represent them in Congress for the next two or six years. Out of the hundreds of men who will receive mandates to enact laws for their constituents not more than ten will be at home in the work they are to do. Not more than ten of these men will have a nodding acquaintance with economics and they will be called upon to vote for or against measures that will alter for better or worse the lives of 130 million people. At the last session of Congress the A.A.A. was enacted into law but not ten members of the House or Senate were fully informed on the contents of this measure, for it was impossible to read the unintelligible 120 pages of this bill and extract its meaning. Every election day America puts pat ball players on the Washington tennis court and then wonders why they cannot return the lightning balls hit by a Donald Budge."

Old Jim had been voting for fifty-five years and it was his belief that there never was a man elected from his State to the House or Senate who was capable of understanding, examining and weighing a major piece of legislation so that his vote on it was a matter of deep conviction based on verifiable facts rather than on prejudice acquired from party loyalty or some other factor.

"Right now," continued Jim, "this nation, which has been so richly endowed with natural wealth and resources, is in the tenth year of a depression. This depression has made old, wizened men out of youngsters who have pounded the pavements in search of work when there is no work. It has caused bloody strikes, relief riots, crime of every description. It has caused as much misery and heartaches as the World War into which another ignorant Congress voted us. Yet there is not more than a handful of men running for a seat in Congress next week *who have the faintest idea of what caused the depression!*"

Now that Old Jim has mentioned it, you seldom do hear a Congressman referred to as that "brilliant economist." Most governmental problems, and laws for their correction, require a background in economics and isn't it strange that so few legislators know the elementals of this bread and butter science?

To become a priest one must take courses on the nature of God, theology. To become a lawyer he must have a degree in law. To become a doctor one must study medicine. But to become a Congressman one need know no economics, yet these legislators must vote on such measures as the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, Social Security and the Federal Reserve law, which are more difficult to diagnose than a case of pneumonia is to a doctor. No one would think of calling in a blacksmith when a patient is sick with pneumonia, but it is perfectly all right to call a blacksmith to Washington and put him to work on the social disease—the depression—a much more serious scourge today than pneumonia, cancer or tuberculosis.

"Son," said Jim as he fingered the seams of a tennis ball, "we in America do not realize and appreciate how important it is to be able to vote on Election Day. When things go wrong economically, when we suffer intensely from a depression, we are inclined to go to the Government and get IT to help us. And if things do not improve then we blame it on the Government. Really we should blame *ourselves* for we elected the men to office who made the errors and it was our mistake on Election Day that is the cause of the trouble, not some straw man called a 'politician.' "

"Then, Jim, despite the incompetent Congressmen elections have produced so far, you still are in favor of having the people go to the polls on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November?"

"Most certainly! Election Day can produce Congressmen as learned and capable and honest as we desire them to be or it can spawn ninnies interested only in plums, patronage and $10,000 per year with expenses."

ELECTION DAY, I gathered, was akin to a tightly strung tennis racket; in capable hands it produced a sparkling game but when swung by a duffer the results were sad indeed. Election Day can be used by the people to put men in Washington who understand the rules of economics or, as so frequently happens, place an incompetent group of men in office who will ruin while they rule. *Election Day reflects the degree of civilization at which a people have arrived.*

"But, Jim, we have had nine regular and a few extra sessions of Congress since the crash in 1929, and about the only thing that has been done is to borrow a few billion more than the tax returns for each year and hand it out to the needy, or pay it to the farmer for not growing crops, or do some Government construction work and put the idle to work. It did not require any knowledge of economics to do this—a grammar school graduate knows how to borrow money and pay it out. From these nine years it appears futile to look to Congress for a solution to the depression."

"Son, you are one-hundred per cent correct in your description of the accomplishments of the past nine years, but, for better or worse, Congress is the only one in this nation with sufficient power to cure the depression. The beginning of our fight on the depression must be made by Congress. It is up to the people to use the ballot properly on Election Day so that we may get legislators who know how to attack the depression."

"How," I asked, "can the people elect decent, intelligent Congressmen when, as usually happens, there is not a skilled economist among all the candidates?"

"Son, if we want learned candidates with a background in economics it would be very easy to get them. Simply require each candidate for Congress to take an examination on his knowledge of current economic problems and their relation to government. Then on Election Day there would appear on the ballot not only the candidate's name but his grade in the test—Somewhat like this: 'John Doe, 82 per cent'."

That, I thought, would be an excellent idea. This written examination could be conducted by the Civil Service Commission, like the committees that admit new lawyers or doctors to practice. Where the standards are as high as those in New York there would be no fear that the committee's grading would reflect anything other than the candidate's knowledge. Eliminating all candidates who failed the examination would weed out the incompetents.

"Next," said Jim, "the names of the four or five highest men could be placed on the ballot, with their grade in the examination. This test would certify the knowledge of each candidate. But knowledge alone is not sufficient to make a good legislator. The voters also must be informed on what measures a candidate will favor when he reaches Washington."

Obviously Jim wanted learned candidates but he was not duped into believing that the wisest men always are the best men. A clever crook would be more harmful than an ignorant but honest man.

"Son, the platforms and promises of candidates for office usually are broken in a hundred ways when a Congressman reaches Washington. Courts of law have held that the promises of office seekers are merely idle chatter and have denied citizens who sought to sue elected officials for their breach a right of action. This leads candidates to promise the voters the sun, moon and stars on rye bread, for they know these dream words cannot be held against them once they acquire their office.

"So, in addition to knowing something about a candidate's brain the voter should know what he intends to do when he gets to Washington. The candidate for office must be required *to put down in black and white* his program. This pre-election program of each candidate must then be made a binding contract between the candidate, if elected, and his constituents. The voters back home *must have the right to sue their Congressman* if after taking a seat in Washington he violates any part of his program."

THIS suggestion of Old Jim certainly would make candidates for Congress more cautious in their promises to the voters. "Thirty dollars every Thursday" would be something to deliver.

As each Senator has one vote out of 96 and each Representative has but one vote in 435, Congressmen

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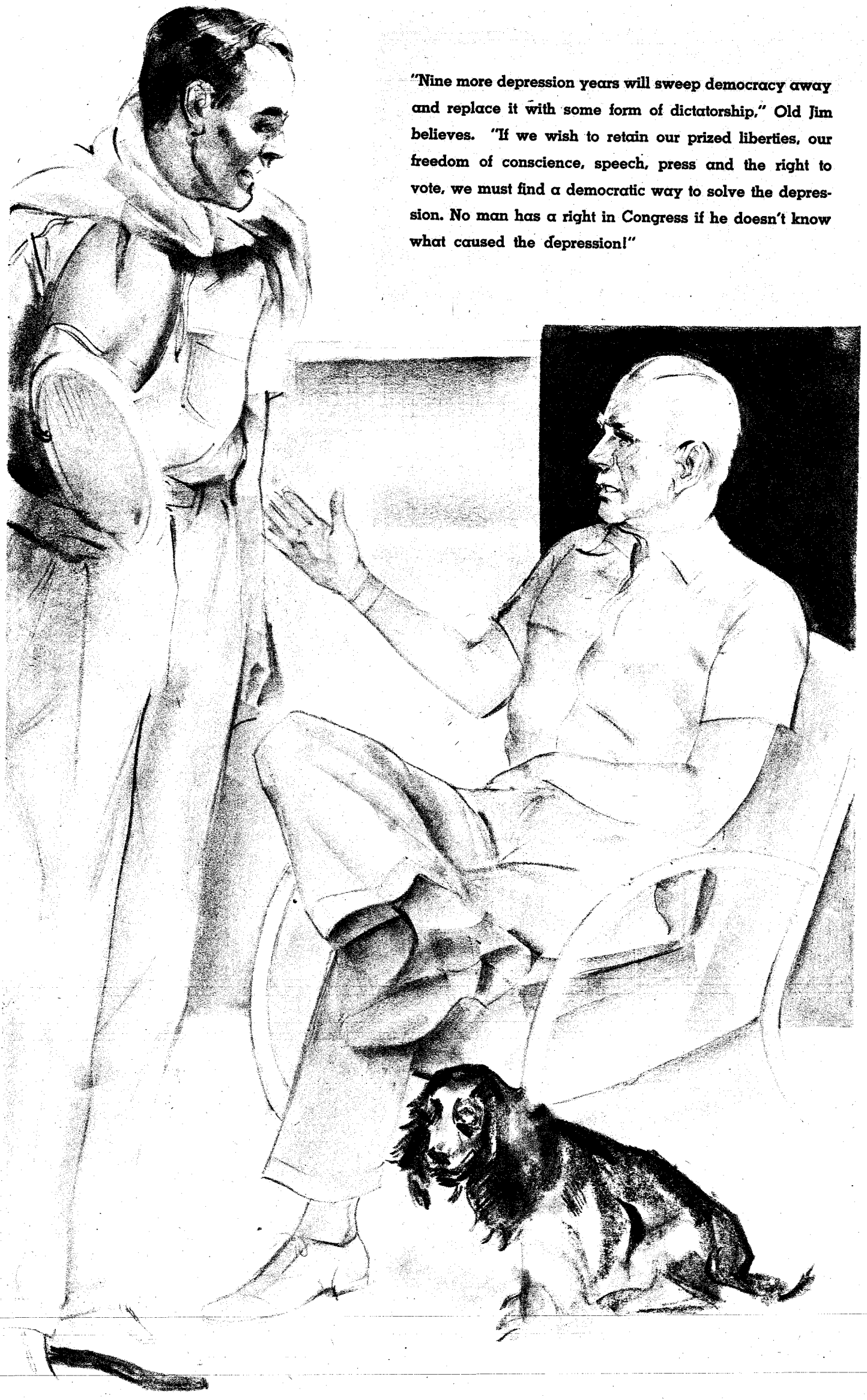

"Nine more depression years will sweep democracy away and replace it with some form of dictatorship," Old Jim believes. "If we wish to retain our prized liberties, our freedom of conscience, speech, press and the right to vote, we must find a democratic way to solve the depression. No man has a right in Congress if he doesn't know what caused the depression!"

naturally cannot guarantee each measure they advocate will be approved by a majority of both Houses. But their contract, under Jim's plan, would require them to do all in their power to fulfill the promises made in their platform.

Old Jim is tired of hearing candidates say that they are "for the people," against high taxes, opposed to monopoly, for two chickens in every pot, for "the American way," and other smoothly worn generalities which reveal little or nothing.

Old Jim has had his fill of bunkum from candidates for office. He wants to know in plain language what is at the bottom of the depression. Obviously, if a candidate did not know or offered some flimsy answer then the voters should be told this. *If a candidate for Congress is ignorant of the cause of the depression then he does not belong in Washington* enacting laws that are supposed to improve our economic condition and as a matter of fact making things worse.

Old Jim's questionnaire would clear the atmosphere of most of the political oratory that precedes election day and force candidates for office to explain the reasons why they approved or sought to defeat laws that affect our economic life. A questionnaire of this character would force candidates to discuss national issues and soft pedal personalities.

"Say, Jim," I interrupted, "since President Roosevelt desterilized gold and lowered the reserve requirements of the Federal Reserve, since Jesse Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, chastised the banks for not lending money, since the little business man's convention declared that it was almost impossible for their members to borrow from the banks, and since the National Emergency Council in a report to the President on the South said that there is very little currency and credit below the Mason-Dixon line, a lot of people have concluded that our central problem is caused by an insufficient amount of currency and credit in the nation."

"Son, prior to the passage of the Federal Reserve Act by Congress late in 1913, it was believed that the currency and credit creating machines, the banks, had failed to supply enough money to the nation so that business could be operated profitably. To correct these money panics the Federal Reserve banking system was established by Congress. Since 1913 we have had a series of depressions. Our monetary system is vital to the welfare of the nation and as voters we ought to know along what monetary lines our Congressmen propose to act when they reach Washington."

Money, or course, is a vital cog in our economic life. It is the medium we all receive in exchange for our work and it is the instrument we use to purchase food, clothing, shelter and the other necessities of life. If the machinery for issuing and circulating money breaks down, then the inevitable result is a depression for the people have not the medium needed to keep the wheels of business moving.

"It would," said Old Jim, "be simple to frame the questions needed to learn a congressional candidate's views on our monetary system. He could be asked: First, do you favor the whole Federal Reserve Act? Second, if you approve of the Federal Reserve Act provided it is amended, what amendments do you want? Third, if you wish to repeal the whole of the Federal Reserve Act what kind of monetary law would you favor to replace it?"

Old Jim's questionnaire would give the voter a detailed description of each candidate's platform and economic beliefs. The voter would have sufficient information concerning the economic credo of each candidate to cast his ballot in an intelligent manner. It would no longer be necessary to vote for a candidate because he had an appealing name, an engaging voice or smile, appeared under the "right" political emblem, or some other frivolous reason.

Old Jim saw more in Election Day than torchlight parades, bon fires and victory dinners for incompetent Congressmen. It was the day on which democracy, by asking the people to choose men to run its government, faced its severest trial. It is a solemn day, an important day, the day on which democracy can be made an intelligent, priceless weapon for the people or a blundering, stupid, insane thing that grinds the people under its heel.

"There is nothing wrong with the theory of having people rule themselves," concluded Jim. "The chief fault with democracy is that the people usually do not choose capable men to represent them. That is why I say we should by testing the brain of each candidate for Congress and making him place his economic credo in detail on paper so that he will be bound by it when he reaches Washington, make it possible for the people to exercise their precious right to vote in an intelligent manner."

Old Jim took his glasses from his eyes to wipe the dust of the tennis court from the lenses. Suddenly it occurred to him that a half hour back I was on my way to the showers.

"Son, your shower waits! That is more important than an old man's Election Day notions. Be off with ye now!"

As I walked to the clubhouse twirling my tennis racket it struck me that Old Jim is out of place in this world; he wants the world to be governed by reason, and the world has become so accustomed to jogging along on its emotions that there is little space in it for a reasonable man.

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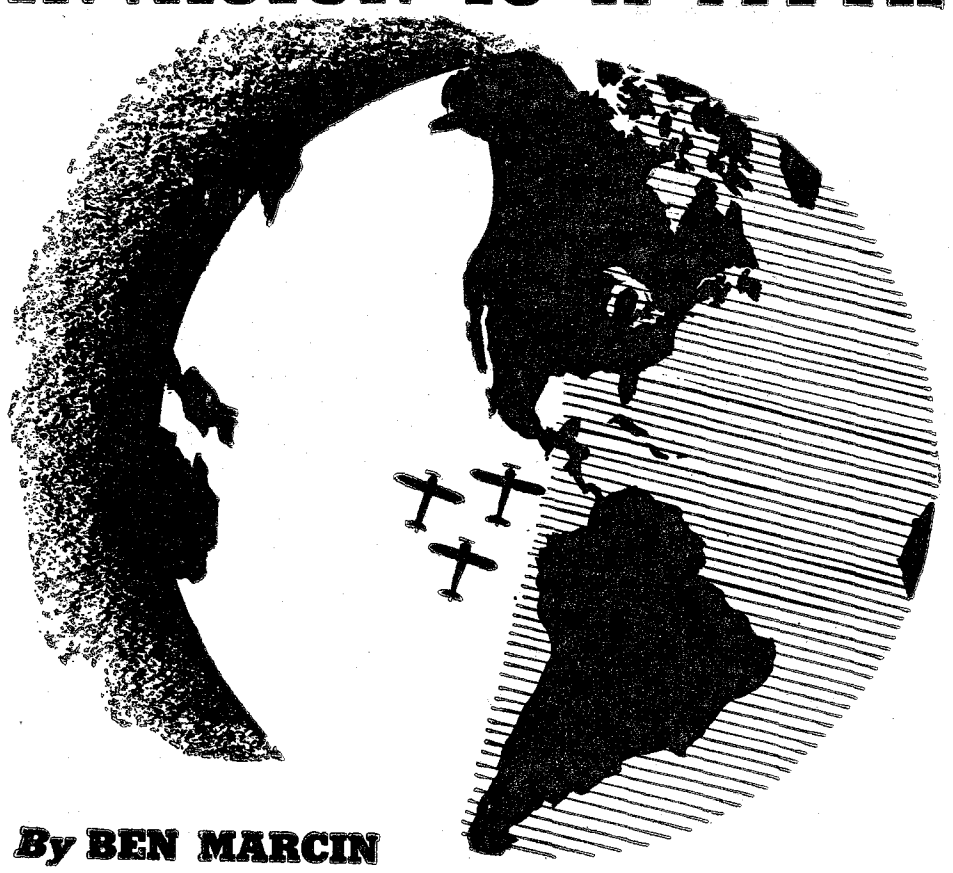
A SOUTH AMERICAN INVASION IS A MYTH



By BEN MARCIN

Bernard Baruch's $7½-Billion Defense Plan Is a Pretext for Spending, But It Also May Be the Front For Another Egyptian "Collection Scheme"— or a New Jewish State.

MR. BERNARD M. BARUCH says that America must spend $7½-billion on an armaments program to prepare for war. The flower of the country's youth will not only aid in manufacturing this machinery of death, and these engines of destruction, but they are to be privileged to go on the receiving end of their munitions when the next war comes. They will dig their own graves under the delusion that we are to have prosperity in the heavy industries.

Surely the man who wields the power to have such things done is somebody to be investigated, despite his studied efforts to remain unknown in the background. Let us by all means have more facts on this man and his plans.

Born in 1870 in New York, Bernard Mannes Baruch was educated at City College and at Williams, and entered the financial field, being a member of the New York Stock Exchange for many years. He came into prominence when, in 1916, President Wilson made him a member of the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense. He became chairman of its Committee on Raw Materials, Minerals and Metals. In 1918, he became chairman of the War Industries Board. Shortly afterward, he was put on the American Commission to Negotiate Peace—and what a peace was made at Versailles! He has served on many other important international and national bodies, and is a donor of funds to the International Institute of Politics of Williams College.

No man in the history of the United States has been closer to so many Presidents than this same Bernard Baruch. It is a common remark in Washington that he has access to the White House via a special back-door entrance—and, of course, the front door whenever desired.

With contacts in every capital of Europe and Asia, Mr. Baruch has just returned from a three months' "confidential mission" (of an undisclosed nature) in Europe for President Roosevelt—hence the $7½-billion plan for spending for "defense."

The "tall, gray fox of Manhattan" speaks personally and persuasively to political groups throughout the world, as no man since the mysterious munitions-vending Zaharoff. Striking in appearance, magnetic in personality, ubiquitous in power, Baruch's friendly hand is grasped by Jew and Gentile. It is reputed that in Jewish circles Mr. Baruch holds the ace control in matters of policy.

In financial circles he is omnipresent and never visible. In politics he is mercurial, slipping with the suddenness of quicksilver through the closely woven strands of every net and "landing upright, smiling and glittering on the presidential desk of every occupant of the White House from Wilson to Roosevelt!"

Mr. Baruch supported the extravagances of the A.A.A. with its anti-Christian doctrine of destruction to create scarcity—plowing under cotton, burning wheat, destroying pigs and cattle, throwing coffee into the ocean.

The same Mr. Baruch once testified during the late war that he *"held more power than any other man in America!"*

ONLY last year, testifying before the United States Senate Investigating Committee on Relief and Unemployment, Mr. Baruch said: "Have we not learned that we cannot free ourselves from the ultimate workings of the natural economic forces or the inevitable equations which govern mankind?"

So we can't "free ourselves from the ultimate workings of the natural economic forces!" In other words, it is okay for the rich to ditch the poor; it's all right to pay less than a living, annual wage; to ship gold to Europe at $20.67 an ounce and cart it back to America at $35 an ounce; to control governments, to control industry, to control farming, to control wages by controlling the puppet bankers who for years have skipped to the Warburg-Baruch, Kuhn-Loeb, Rockefeller-Morgan rope of high finance. *Inevitable laws,* are these, Mr. Baruch?

Mr. Baruch colors his defense egg with several arguments. The peace of Munich he declares to be "an ignominious acceptance of defeat before a stronger power, that only puts off the day when war must come." So the eventual war, too, is *inevitable!*

It really was too bad that peace triumphed, just now. It would have been so much better for the munitions makers to have had another good bloody war! It would have made this hasty new pretext for U. S. spending unnecessary.

Had Baruch been in Prime Minister Chamberlain's shoes, one gathers, he would have jumped us all into the caldron of war and millions would have been slaughtered, especially in the larger cities. Take London for example, with 7½ million souls. Of the capital's 100 anti-aircraft guns, only 34 were in working order when the mobilization tests came (See SOCIAL JUSTICE, Oct. 31).

Baruch's compatriot, Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha, British Secretary for War, was officially responsible for London's unbelievable unpreparedness situation. Who profiteered from the millions allocated for defense that was not effective? *The war makers!*

Does Baruch really think that Mr. Chamberlain failed, or was it that he had sanity enough to consider the millions of defenseless English people?

It could not be because atheistic, anti-Christian Communism was dealt a death blow by the peace of Munich. Or could it? Why does Baruch call Chamberlain's peace "ignominious" in the face of London's ineffective defenses under Secretary Hore-Belisha? Maxim Litvinov, another of Europe's "big three" called the peace *"monstrous!"*

THE threat to the United States from Germany is in South America and "is real and immediate," Mr. Baruch told a Canadian newspaper (See SOCIAL JUSTICE for Oct. 31). He went on: "Hitler demands raw materials and markets for his manufactured goods. Where can he get them? In Europe? Hardly. In Africa? It is already taken by England, France and Italy. In the Orient? Japan dominates there. *The only place Hitler can turn is to South America.* It is the last continental outpost of free governments. The Latin-American republics are comparatively defenseless. Only the United States can prevent their seizure by a strong totalitarian power such as Germany."

As a matter of fact, Germany does not need South America since she now has virtually a free hand in Central Europe, with a better chance of getting back her old pre-war colonies than of pioneering new fields in a western continent. No, the simple fact is that Germany stopped communism in western Europe, upsetting all calculations of the financiers, and so is marked for revenge?

Furthermore, through the financial wizardy of Dr. Schacht, Germany got free of the international Jewish bankers by devising an internal currency, independent of a gold base, predicated on the real wealth of the German nation. For their foreign money, Dr. Schacht devised an ingenious system of barter, exchanging goods for goods, which obviated the necessity of gold.

The power of gold had enabled the Jewish international bankers from time immemorial to have a virtual monopoly on the world's finance. Two groups of them are now fighting for world control. One is led by the House of Rothschild and the other by a group in Germany.

The Rothschilds—equally at home in Vienna, Paris, or London—negotiated loans at usurious interest rates to the ruler of Egypt. The English people then had to pay for military and naval action to maintain this debt and recover interest for the bondholders. Mr. Baruch, as an agent of the Rothschilds, has much the same situation now in South America. The Rothschilds have loaned *"beaucoup* millions" to South American countries. The only certain way these bankers can continue to extract interest on their loans, as well as to retain the huge principal, is for their foreign trade to continue unimpeded in South America by German trade rivals.

These bankers are endeavoring to make another Egypt of South America, only instead of an English army and navy protecting their investment, the American people will be called upon under Baruch's prosperity plan to protect the bankers' loans through a $7½-billion "defense" program.

FINALLY, Mr. Baruch suggests that this re-armament program should help to solve this nation's unemployment problem. In other words the program of destruction is to be tied up with recovery. The Big Boys figure that by the time of the next campaign in 1940 things would be booming—for the fortunate investors in armament stocks. Prosperity sought and maintained through armament building is a delusion which will only lead to the certain disaster of war and worse depression.

Naturally our country must be adequately defended and protected, but our own army and navy officials should have something to say about our defense plans. We must have no Hore-Belishas!

In the *National Jewish Daily* for October 17, in the column "News and Views," Dr. S. Margoshes states:

"The United Jewish Nation is a Sovereign Jewish State. Recruiting for the Nai Juda movement is now signing up able-bodied young men and women willing to join a Jewish army of soldier-settlers for service in a new independent Jewish State WITHIN THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE.

"Will it be in Canada, in Mexico, or *in the wilderness of Brazil?"*

Mr. Baruch may want to insure this new investment in South America with America's might. In the Palestine homeland adventure an investment of $100-million is not able to depend upon the protection of the British Empire.

As a matter of fact, the economic dictatorship of the international bankers is more pitilessly cruel than the dictatorship of any Hitler. The tragic effects of financial domination are everywhere visible, but the cause is carefully concealed.

Americans must not dig their own graves and prepare for death to protect the profits of the international bankers and further enrich the merchandisers of murder.

Mr. Baruch has spoken, but the American people have not. They MUST have a voice in this policy of madness.

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NATIONAL WEEKLY

Social Justice

Founded 1936 by Father Coughlin

Rev. Chas. E. Coughlin, LL.D.

EDITORIAL COUNSEL

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16 PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Liberty of conscience and education.
Just living annual wage.
Nationalization of important public resources.
Private ownership of all other property.
Abolition of Federal Reserve Banking System and establishment of a government-owned Central Bank.
Restoration to Congress of its sole right to coin and regulate the value of money.
Cost of living maintained on an even keel.
Cost of production plus a fair profit for the farmer.
Labor's right to organize.
Recall of non-productive bonds.
Abolition of tax-exempt bonds.
Broadened base of taxation on basis of ownership and capacity to pay.
Simplification of government and lower taxes.
Conscription of wealth as well as men in event of war.
Sanctity of human rights preferred to sanctity of property with government's chief concern for the poor.

Michigan's Murphy

SOCIAL JUSTICE is not telling the voters of Michigan—or any other state—how they should vote. But the personal interference of the President of the United States, to influence the re-election of Gov. Murphy, has made the motor state's campaign a new focal point of National interest—if not actually an outright test of New Dealism. Whether this is any particular favor to Murphy remains to be seen.

The President of the United States joined critics of the Dies Committee investigating subversive activities. Along with other party workers the President charged that the fact findings of the Congressional committee would "influence the campaign in Michigan." So to counter this injury, he does some *influencing* of his own.

The Dies investigators had just disclosed that the sitdown strikes in Michigan automobile plants had been of *Communistic origin and direction.* Throughout the trouble the governor had been in hourly contact with the President and Mme. Perkins, and presumably acting upon their direction. It was shown that the governor had delayed action on a court order evicting the strikers until his offices as a "peace maker" had created a hero role for himself and negotiators had concluded a 5 and 10 cent wage "victory" for the C.I.O. With the revelation of radicalism throughout the whole picture, therefore, one sees why the New Deal suddenly became interested in Michigan.

In these days of purge defeats there is some question whether the endorsement of the President is an assistance to Murphy, or whether the New Deal hopes to bolster its waning prestige on the popularity of Michigan's much press-agented executive. Certanly, making a New Deal test of the state campaign gave last minute ammunition to foes of the incumbent regime.

A Word About James M. Curley

SOCIAL JUSTICE is not endorsing either James M. Curley or Leverett Saltonstall for governor of Massachusetts, nevertheless this National Weekly has the following comment to make:

We hope that the principles of social justice, endorsed in the state platform by the Democratic party in Massachusetts, will be carried forward into action by their standard bearer. We hope that Governor Curley will be able to disentangle himself from politics and politicians, remaining indifferent to the blandishments of promising Washington politicians, and first, last and always remember that he is the governor *of the people* of Massachusetts.

Mr. Curley failed of election to the United States Senate and he failed of re-election to the office of mayor of Boston. If and when he is again elected to be governor of his state, may he remember the biblical injunction; "*what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?*"

James Curley: You will probably be elected Governor of Massachusetts. *Lose the world!* Forsaking high hat-ism, and turning your back upon the siren voice of New Deal promises—SAVE YOUR SOUL!

James Michael Curley was not born with blue blood in his veins; he was born of downtrodden Irish parents. Let Mr. Curley remember whence he sprung and, visualizing the shackles that have been welded about the ankles of his fellow men, be mindful of the textile workers, fishermen and the exploited population who "knew him when."

Immigration Law Abuse

IN THE city of Detroit, a week ago, a mother of four little children crossed the river to Canada to attend the funeral of a relative, and was not permitted to return to her home.

It was explained that under the inexorable regulations of an iron-clad immigration law, the young mother had been in this country illegally.

It seems that in 1930 Mary Landry of Sidney, Nova Scotia, came to the United States. Two years later, she married John MacKinnon, who died a year ago. So, when the Widow MacKinnon sought to return across the bridge from Windsor to her children, the United States Government said that she might not come back. Subsequently, under a 30-day reprieve, she was permitted to return on her pledge that she would look for work and would not become a welfare client.

On the same day that hearts were wrung by this sternness of our immigration law, the Dies Committee in Washington—turning up subversive activities on every hand—announced its intention of calling upon Secretary Perkins for an explanation as to why her department refuses to act in the cases of 3,000 deportable aliens—mostly Communists.

Mrs. Perkins, her tri-cornered hat bobbing with the emphasis of her speech, has said that her department must await a test case in the courts to determine whether the United States can deport such alien agitators as the notorious Harry Bridges and the rest of some 3,000 subversives. It just may be, Mrs. Perkins' tone intimates, that membership in a political party whose object is the overthrow of our form of government will not be held to be a deportable offense.

Last June, Mrs. MacKinnon was notified by the Department of Labor that the immigration office would put off action in her case, pending the outcome of proposed legislation which would permit her to remain in this country. This legislation, it was explained, *is to be introduced at the next session of Congress.*

Mrs. MacKinnon's case is being repeated all over America. This week in Detroit, next week in Milwaukee, Chicago, Boston or New York; everywhere there is being built up in the public mind a prejudice against the "terrible injustices of the immigration law." A law which compels Mrs. Perkins' department of the Government to tear families apart, much as she hates to do it; while at the same time it permits the department to refuse to act in some 3,000 cases of alien agitators!

It would not be possible—or would it?—that the public's mind is being skillfully prepared for an immigration law which will permit the Labor Department, with great press agentry, to correct these home-wrecking deportations and under the same provisions (without publicity) permit the Dickstein-Perkins favored aliens to remain undisturbed by the danger of deportation.

It's not from names like "Landry" or "MacKinnon" that the menace to America arises.

Will Jews Fight Communism?

"Jews Organize Legion to Fight 'Isms'"
"Jews Fight Communism."

WITH these headlines and others of like import, New York newspapers during the past week have captioned the welcome news that an army of "one million Jewish men, women and children throughout the United States" is to be known as the "American Jewish Federation to Combat Communism and Fascism."

National headquarters are announced at 170 Broadway and Milton Solomon, former King's County commander of the American Legion and past national patriotic instructor of the Jewish War Veterans, is chairman.

The movement, Mr. Solomon explains, is a "strictly Jewish organization having for its object the destruction of the Communist virus." He adds "The impression has been given that a large percentage of the Communists are Jewish, and Jews themselves must prove the falsity of this assertion."

One newspaper account says that Gov. Herbert H. Lehman of New York, a candidate for re-election, just at this time, is sponsor for the idea.

SOCIAL JUSTICE has frequently made itself clear that its fight is against atheistic international Communism, and has on more than one occasion called upon Jewish spokesmen to repudiate Communism as vigorously as they are ever ready to do against "fascism."

An organization of Jews to combat Communism in New York City certainly has its work cut out for it. They will be starting at headquarters. The rest of the nation, and the world, will watch their progress.

SOCIAL JUSTICE will be glad to report the continuing activities of the "American Jewish Federation to Combat Communism and Fascism." Keeping in mind always that *Fascism follows Communism,* the sensible way to avert Fascism is to oppose Communism and correct the causes of Communism. An exclusively Jewish movement addressing itself to this fight certainly has the opportunity to get something done.

An example of what Jewish organization can do when its heart is in it, is the calling this week of 450 mass meetings simultaneously in various parts of the country to protest the closing of Palestine to Jewish refugees. Will we see Jewish mass meetings of this sort held to combat Communism?

We will be watching for news of the further progress in this Jewish campaign against Communism in the United States.

Inviting Dictatorship

THE concept of a central government exercising only such powers as are expressly released to it by Sovereign States grows dimmer with every Federal hand-out. SOCIAL JUSTICE, not infrequently, has reminded its readers of the inescapable truth that in every case where a local municipality falls down on the burden of self-help, and throws itself upon the charity of a larger unit, for example the state or national government, to that same extent do the people yield up another vestige of their independence. Any alert "planner" who may be waiting around may thus seize more unused power.

There is no "Santa Claus" in national relief or in national government. The mysterious "they" whom we somehow expect to do something for us do not exist. *The Government is US!* The elected officials, who function very often as if they did own the thing, are *our hired men!* It becomes easier every year to make voters forget this.

What is true with relation to government and local relief is also true of business. Mr. Paul G. Hoffman, president of the Studebaker Corporation, states this succinctly in a recent interview. Said Mr. Hoffman:

"There are, in my opinion, too many business men in America who talk loudly of government dictation and against the growth of political bureaucracy, but who have, nevertheless, gone literally and figuratively to Washington and to state legislatures for some form of special privilege.

"I consider such requests on the part of business as inimical to our system of free enterprise. They will, I fear, undermine our competitive system and weaken it to the attack of those who, no matter how sincerely, believe that the methods of planned economy should be suppressed."

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The Week in the Nation

WASHINGTON

Dies Defends Committee's Acts

DEMOCRAT Martin Dies, Texas Representative, earned the ill-will of Democrat Franklin Roosevelt last week as Dies continued an investigation into Michigan's sit-down strikes of 1936-37 and their Communist origin.

Ire of Democrat Roosevelt was aroused by charges made before the Congressional committee on subversive and un-American activities, that Michigan's Democratic Governor Frank Murphy had been guilty of "treasonable" activity in handling Michigan's rash of sit-down strikes.

Burden of the Roosevelt denunciation was that the whole testimony was keyed to "smear" Murphy before the upcoming election, in which the Michigan governor must defend his position against the challenge of former Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald, Republican.

The President further declared that evidence introduced before the committee was "mere opinion evidence," and that such testimony "has been barred in court since the American system of legislative and judicial procedure was started," forgetting apparently, that activities of the committee are an *investigation;* not a *trial.* And that therefore methods of procedure may differ.

Dies' answer, delivered as the committee heard American Legionnaires testify that grounds may exist for impeachment proceedings against Labor Secretary Madame Perkins, affirmed stoutly that the investigation would not be halted because of the imminence of the election.

"Postponement Cowardly"

"To my way of thinking," Chairman Dies said, "it would be a cowardly thing to postpone hearings . . . for to do so would imply that the Democratic party is unwilling for the people to have the facts when they go to the polls, which I do not think is true so far as the majority of Democrats is concerned."

Dies' position allied him with the ever-growing faction of disgruntled Democrats, sorrowing and protesting at the President's increasing encroachments on the party's leadership. Murphy, hand-picked by the President to run for Michigan's governorship in the 1936 campaign, remains one of the President's close associates. This fact has played a part in the Michigan Republican campaign where Fitzgerald and others have accused Murphy of "yessing" the President; allowing presidential influence to color Michigan's administrative policies.

Concluding for the moment its consideration of Communist activity in the Michigan auto strikes, the committee turned its attention to Lansing, the state capital, which was besieged for a day in a C.I.O. general strike. The committee turned from the auto situation after Homer Martin, president of the United Auto Workers, C.I.O. union, for the second time within a week "begged off" on a subpoena and was excused from appearing before the investigators.

Martin in Dilemma

Martin, who first protested that "illness" would prevent his appearance, told the committee after his "recovery" that "delicate negotiations" which he had undertaken would be "jeopardized," should he appear. Real reason for Martin's demurrer was that he was impaled on both horns of a dilemma.

Should he appear, Martin would have to testify under oath that accusations he made concerning Communist activity in the U.A.W. last July either were true or false. If they were true, then public decency could no longer tolerate the present structure of the U.A.W. By Martin's own testimony, it is controlled largely by Communists and Communist aides. If his testimony delivered at the U.A.W. executive board trial were false, then Martin is discredited before his own rank-and-file.

A Lansing newspaper reporter told the Dies committee that Governor Murphy himself had said in a press conference the Lansing "labor holiday" was "conceived and executed by Communists." He said also that Murphy, addressing masses of workers involved in the Communist-conceived general strike, said "This government must protect you from arbitrary and dictatorial judgments . . . I am urging those in government and industry to recognize new conditions . . ."

Unmistakable implication of the testimony was that Gov. Murphy, while recognizing the uprising as Communist inspired, was unwilling to make a positive step to quell it, preferring to delay in hopes of placating both sides.

LABOR

Selfish Employers Oppose Wage Law

THE Fair Labor Standards Act, product of many years legislative discussion, went into effect last week as selfish employers in all sections of the country raised their voices in an ear-splitting howl of protest.

Although provisions of the act call for a wage-hour standard far below the American norm, nonetheless application of the law was greeted with plant closings, layoffs, chiseling, active movements for court rulings.

In New York, the Postal Telegraph Co. announced that it would lay off 1,000 messenger boys, who were being paid less than 25 cents an hour, the act's minimum wage. In Texas, and the South generally, pecan shelling plants were closed in wholesale lots as owners and managers announced that the act's wage floor would not permit them to operate. It was estimated that 80,000 workers were turned from the plants.

In the industrial North employers hurriedly thumbed through legislative guide books, or sought legal advice on methods to evade the law.

Law Inadequate

The wage-hour law, with its 25-cent minimum hourly wage, and its 44-hour maximum week, sets up a standard entirely inadequate for the American mode of living. It was intended only as a starting point for federal hour and wage regulation which, in seven years, would bring the work-week down to 40 hours; the hourly pay-rate up to 40 cents. In some

DIFFICULTY BESET Elmer F. Andrews, Administrator of the wages and hours act, the first day terms of the law were applied. Although the law specifies only a 25-cent hourly wage minimum, thousands of workers were thrown out of jobs all over the country as selfish employers protested the act's "unreasonable" standards. Indication is the law will be given a Supreme Court test as soon as possible.

quarters it is believed the act smooths the way for legislative enactment of a law setting up a living annual wage for certain industries.

Stitched, as was the defunct N.R.A., to the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution, the wage-hour law apparently is headed for the Supreme Court, burial ground of N.R.A., and A.A.A. No. 1. Until the law either survives or falls under the high tribunal's stroboscopic examination, it will be of little practical use because:

1. Employers already are hedging and halting in adapting their work rolls to the act's provisions, in hope of an early court test.

2. Its pay scale admittedly is inadequate. Until seven years have elapsed, the evils of low pay continue.

3. Elasticity of the provisions relating to "industries operating in interstate commerce," is readily apparent. Wide confusion already is expressed as to the law's application to those goods affected secondarily by interstate commerce.

4. Administrator Elmer F. Andrews and staff are hampered by inadequate enforcement machinery and insufficient administrative funds. Congress gave only $350,000 to put the law into effect.

5. Great groups of workers in all sections of the nation are exempt from the law's provisions. Among them: farm workers, seamen, transportation workers, executives, salesmen, fishermen, canning workers, dairy workers, cotton processing workers, processing workers in other lines. Regulation of minimum wages and maximum hours is fully as necessary for these groups as for others.

Hopeful Note

Just as N.R.A. was saddled and stuffed with "code authorities," diversified as the field of industrial operations itself, so F.L.S. (fair labor standards) is polka-dotted with committees for each industry, armed with a high degree of arbitrary authority. The textile committee, now sitting in Washington, was confronted with a just demand for a 40 cent hourly minimum from the start. Under the act, committees are to report to Administrator Andrews the highest wage the industry can pay.

One hopeful note in the welter of confusion attending inauguration of the act's provisions, is the apparent co-operative attitude of Andrews. Indicating that he will avoid the successive pitfalls that befell the N.R.A., Andrews assured industry there will be no "crack-down," no "dictatorial" enforcement methods.

Best that can be said for the act at present is that it is a trend in the right direction.

ADMINISTRATION

Roosevelt Speaks on Armaments

BREAKING the general silence that has enveloped him since his last defeat in the projected "purge," President Roosevelt spoke out last week of a need for armaments as a means to peace.

The President, broadcasting from the White House, lashed the "dictator nations" again and pledged the United States to defend the Western Hemisphere from aggression abroad. His message was transmitted by radio to Europe and South America.

Assailing Italy and Germany without mentioning them, Mr. Roosevelt condemned the race policies of Mussolini and Hitler as acts provocative of war.

"There can be no peace if national policy adopts as a deliberate instrument the dispersion all over the world of millions of helpless and persecuted wanderers with no place to lay their heads," the President said.

President Roosevelt vowed that until deliberate steps toward disarmament are taken by foreign nations, this nation would continue to arm "to meet with success any application of force against us."

The President's address, delivered in connection with the *New York Herald Tribune's* forum on current affairs, paves the way for the re-armament program recommended by the "unofficial president," Bernard M. Baruch. This presidential emissary, recently returned from abroad, gave it as his belief that Hitler intended to invade South America, and for that reason Baruch asks the United States to spend $7½-billion for the non-productive instruments of warfare.

Familiar note in the broadcast appeal for national militancy was the President's contradiction concerning war and peace. Hitler, Mussolini, Daladier, Chamberlain, Roosevelt—all profess a firm belief in, and desire for peace. Yet each has been committed to a giant armament race.

The President affirmed that he would hold back on any armament reduction as a means toward peace, until a step in that direction is taken by the others—both a good and a bad policy. The President himself, in his address, gave the fallacy to his own arguments in favor of an armed peace, when he said: "You cannot organize civilization around the core of militarism and at the same time expect reason to control human destinies."

This remark, obviously intended for Hitler and Mussolini, applies with equal weight to the United States, and the $7½-billion armament program asked for by, and presently forthcoming to, "the unofficial president," high-financier Bernard M. Baruch.

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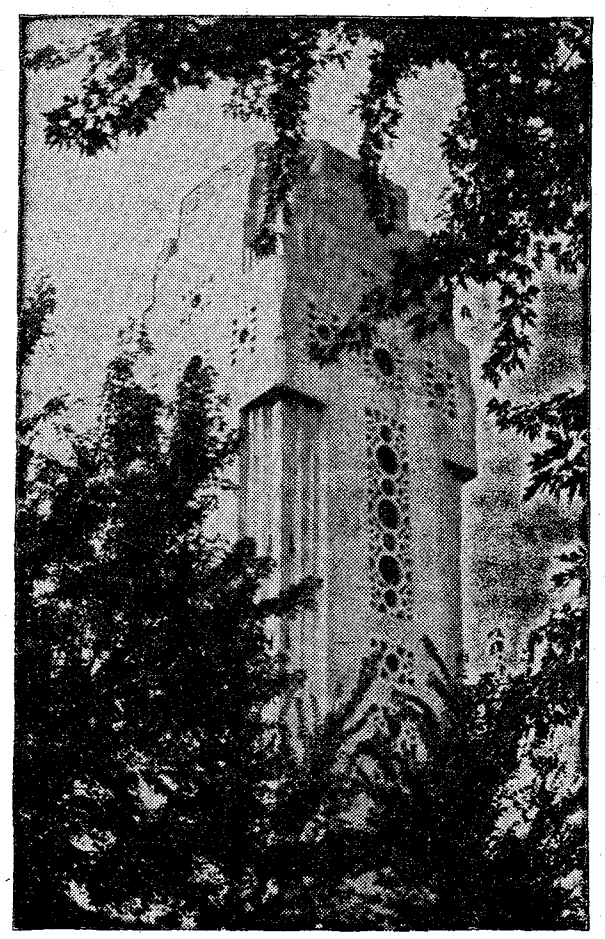
It Was the Franciscans Who, in the 15th Century, Resolved to Found 'Mountains of Mercy'—Lending Banks Where Borrowers Might Obtain Ready Money Without Interest and Thus for the Moment Rescued Christian Civilization From Usurers.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

A CHAPTER FROM THE PAST
A HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

FROM THE TOWER

This is the third instalment of an address delivered by Father Coughlin before the Association of Catholic Colleges of Michigan. The concluding instalment will appear in SOCIAL JUSTICE November 14.

THE 13th Century had witnessed the high-water mark in Christian social progress. It was characterized by strict international justice, despite the lack of communications and transportation. Inside the boundaries of each nation a high standard of social organization had been perfected although the sciences of chemistry, physics, engineering, surgery, etc. had not been developed to any considerable extent.

I mean that the nations were leagued together under the sceptre of an international law which recognized the Vicar of Christ as the final court of appeal. I mean that inside each nation men were divided into classifications called guilds. The family and not the individual was looked upon as the unit of the state. The guild of stone masons, for example, was a national institution divided into many chapters according to province, diocese and parish.

More than that, these guilds were so constituted that they co-operated with each other for the welfare of all on the basis that the common national welfare could not be obtained unless the individual guilds and their members received a decent, annual livelihood for themselves and their families.

While nearly all historians will emphasize the economic value of the guilds, nevertheless, they had a spiritual background which escapes the attention of most modern writers; for society in England, France, Germany, Spain and Italy was predominantly Christian. As such, it not only believed in but practiced the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ. It was not satisfied with maintaining that Christ and His doctrines are the cornerstone of society. It regarded Christ as the physical Head of society and all the classifications of society as the members of the Mystical Body of Christ, which Mystical Body was made to live by the Holy Ghost, its soul.

In America, during our lifetime, Dr. Walsh, in his book, *"The Thirteenth, the Greatest of Centuries,"* outlined for us this thesis, which was developed in the lives and accomplishments of the real Christians of that day.

Now, specifically, what brought about the disorganization of Christian society? We know that it rotted from within more than from without.

What brought about the dissolution of the guilds and destroyed the organic character of Christian society? We know that this destruction likewise was from within, not due to the principles and dogmas of Christianity but rather traceable to their neglect by so-called Christians.

Practically every historian will accept a surface statement something like the following:

"After the 13th Century, and most noticeably with the advent of Leo X in the 16th Century, came the introduction of pagan humanism, pagan laws, pagan philosophy and pagan usury into the Christian countries of Europe. Individualism with its greed, avarice, economic slavery and licentiousness, began to work havoc. Although for centuries Christian churchmen fought vigorously against the abuses of usury, a sad silence on this subject was notorious in the days of the Medici pope. Little by little, the papal supremacy in matters of international morals was denied. Gradually, the capitalists who were then the mighty land-owners, together with kings and emperors, began to concern themselves with obtaining more power and more money at the expense of the farmers, the laborers, the artisans, the professional class, the educators, the service class and the religious. It was only a matter of time, as a result of this let-down beginning with usury, for a real revolution to break forth as it did under Martin Luther—a revolution that was inevitable unless strict reforms had been instituted."

NOW, let us get down to historical facts and cases to discover if experts like Pastor will bear out the statement that the vice of usury was the spring whence flowed the poison which disintegrated, and almost destroyed, Christian society.

Thus I quote from volume V, (pages 106 to 112) of Ludwig Pastor's *"History of the Popes"* to bear out the above remarks. He says in commenting upon the usury extant and upon the practice of private bankers, who were accustomed to lend ten and twenty times more credit receipts than they actually had gold in their vaults, that *usury was the worst crime of the age—worse than lust and licentiousness, prodigality of living, gambling and every other type of immorality.*

The excerpt follows:

"Usury and fraud went hand in hand with the wealth and commerce, which all this luxury required for its support. S. Bernardino of Siena reproaches the merchants with the devices and tricks with which they strove to overreach each other. He is particularly angry with the Stocchi family (*"stocco"—rapier*), who were in the habit of buying up goods in order to raise prices, then selling them again at a profit, and afterwards buy them back cheap. Their name fitted them well, for they stabbed and murdered their neighbors, and ought to be driven out of the city. S. Bernardino is equally severe on those who used false weights and measures, who knew they were sinning, but said to themselves—

'From floor to roof the barn we'll fill,
May the goods be gotten well or ill.'

"The Saint vehemently denounces those Christian usurers who even give money to the Jews, which by usury they have extorted from Christians. It is plain from the sermons of Gabriele da Barletta (1470), Roberto da Lecce, and Michele da Milan, that matters did not improve as time went on. The latter gives a long list of common forms of fraudulent contracts and monetary transactions, explaining the technical terms in his own way. A whole series of sermons by Michele deal with tricks of trade and false weights. Gabriele da Barletta, in his peculiar, graphic style introduces the following dialogue into one of his sermons:—'My son, art thou a Christian?' 'Yea, father, christened in such and such a church.' 'What is thine occupation?' 'I am a usurer.' 'Oh, if thy wife's gowns were put under a press the heart's blood of the poor would drip from them!' "

FROM these passages it is plain that the Jews were not the only extortioners and oppressors of the poor. The Christian Jews lent money on far more exorbitant terms, as the Town Council of Verona complained, than the Jews themselves.

"The preachers everywhere inveighed against usury, and many cities, Piacenza for instance, forbade it under pain of the severest penalties (exclusion from Holy Communion and from Christian burial), but the evil was still unabated. It was, of course, at its worst in commercial and financial centers like Florence and Venice. In Florence we find all patriots, writers, preachers and legislators concurring in putting usury foremost in the list of offences, and attributing all other evils to it, and we have documentary proof that their accusations were no mere oratorical

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Photo shows historical Piazzetta San Marco, at the left the Loggetta of Sansovino, at the right the Basilic of St. Mark. (Acme)

phrases. Thirty per cent was no uncommon rate of interest.

"In 1420 money-lenders were prohibited from taking more than 20 per cent, but still there was no improvement. Ten years later another course was tried, and an attempt made to put a stop to Christian usury by allowing the Jews to lend at 20 per cent. Jews and Christians now combined to grind the people down, and the writings of both clergy and laity are full of complaints of their extortions. S. Antoninus composed a treatise against usury, in which he protests most earnestly against these iniquitous practices.

"Twenty years after the death of the Saint, Vespasiano da Bisticci exclaims, 'Repent, O city of Florence, for thou art full of usury and unlawful gains. Thy citizens devour one another; greed of gain has set every man's hand against his neighbor; injustice has become so common that no one is ashamed of it. Of late thou hast seen terrible things in thy streets, such disturbances and distresses as are plainly a chastisement from God, and yet thou remainest obdurate. There is no hope for thee, because the minds of all are set upon nothing but money-making, although they see how, the moment a man dies, all his riches vanish away like smoke.'

"Vespasiano da Bisticci addressed similar exhortations to the Milanese. The preachers redoubled their efforts, but they did not content themselves with words, and in the end it was they who sought and found a remedy in the erection of public loan offices.

"As in the 13th Century, so now, in the latter half of the 15th, it was the Franciscans who, with the sanction of the Apostolic See, took this social reform in hand. Intercourse with all classes of society had rendered them familiar with the pitiless greed with which Jewish and Christian money-lenders took advantage of a temporary embarrassment to demand incredibly high interest. To prevent this extortionate trading upon the needs of the smaller townsfolk, the Franciscans resolved to found institutions where any one in want of ready money could obtain it *in exchange for some pledge, and without interest,* the working capital of the scheme being supplied by voluntary contributions, collections, gifts and legacies. Hence the expression *mons* (mountain) meaning a heap of money, the owners of which were supposed to be the poor in general, or the institution.

"To the Papal States belongs the honor of having opened the first of these charitable institutions, or mountains of mercy (*montes pietatis*). The Popes at once recognized the significance and the importance of these establishments, and encouraged them to the utmost of their power. In the year 1463 Pius II established the first *Mons Pietatis* in Orvieto; that of Perugia was founded in 1464 by Paul II. In both places the Franciscans were the originators and chief promoters of the movement. Sixtus IV erected one in his native city, Savona.

"In the course of time similar institutions sprung up in Assisi, Mantua, Pavia, Ravenna, Verona, Alessandria, Ferrara, Parma, Rimini, Cesena, Montagnana, Chieti, Rieti, Narni, Gubbio, Monfelice, Brescia, Lucca, Aquila, and other places, and almost always under Franciscan auspices. S. Bernardino da Feltre especially was indefatigable in this direction. In the course of his missionary tours, which covered almost the whole of Italy, he founded Montes Pietatis wherever he went. The extraordinarily rapid diffusion of these institutions is the best proof that they responded to a real want especially in the smaller towns. They met also with plenty of resistance; the war that was carried on against them is significant as a proof of the predominance and social power which, through their control of the Exchange, the Jews had acquired in Italy at that time."

MAY I interrupt the lengthy quotation from Ludwig Pastor's *"History of the Popes."* Bear in mind that these Montes Pietatis were established by the Franciscans in the 13th Century as well as in the 14th Century and early 15th Century. Bear in mind that *they rescued Christian civilization for the moment from usury and usurers.*

But also bear in mind that in the 16th Century this opposition to the Franciscans, of which Pastor speaks in the above paragraphs, was so successful in the reign of Leo X, the Pope whose own brother was the chief usurer in Italy, that the Montes Pietatis lapsed into almost uselessness and usury began to run rampant with all its attendant vices over a once beautiful Christian civilization.

"Many of the Princes, Giovanni Galeazzo Sforza of Milan and Giovanni Bentivoglio of Bologna, were on the side of the usurers; but they found in S. Bernardino da Feltre a strong and persevering opponent. In the Saint's unwearied and unsparing denunciations of the Jews we are led to see what a baneful influence they exercised throughout the whole of Italy, and how they drained the life-blood of the people, both rich and poor. The result was a wide-spread anti-semitic movement, which sometimes led to reprehensible excesses. S. Bernardino must not be held responsible for these, for he denounced the Christian usurers as well as the Jews, and deprecated all violence."

While S. Bernardino inveighed relentlessly against the usurers by name and by specific example; while he and his co-laborers were practical enough not to content themselves with mere preaching but insisted upon Christian action even though he was accused of being anti-semitic for so doing we find him saying:

" 'No one,' he said in his sermon at Crema, 'who values the salvation of his soul will dare to injure the Jews either in their persons or their property, or in any other way. For we owe justice and Christian charity to all men, and the ordinances of the Popes and the spirit of Christianity alike enjoin this; but, on the other hand, the Church forbids us to maintain intimate relations with Jews; neither ought we to have recourse to them as physicians, as is now so commonly done.' Nevertheless, some Jewish usurers endeavored to procure his assassination. S. Bernardino escaped from his assailant and continued his labors. In 1486 Innocent VIII called him to Rome, and soon after, a Bull in favor of the Monte was issued.

"In the year 1473 a *Monte di Pieta* was to have been erected in Florence, but the intention was not carried out. It was said that the Jews had bribed the magistrates and Lorenzo de Medici to prevent it, with a sum of 100,000 ducats. When S. Bernardino came there in 1488 he endeavored to revive the project, but the Jews were again successful, by their intrigues and bribery, in staving it off. Finally Savonarola at last succeeded in procuring its establishment.

"The decree promulgated on this occasion shows the grinding usury practiced by the Jews. We find that in Florence they exacted 32½ per cent for loans, so that a loan of 100 florins would bring in by the end of fifty years the sum of 49,791,556 florins, 7 grossi, and 7 danai! The ever-increasing demands upon the *Monte di Pieta* necessarily entailed a corresponding increase in the expenses of administration, and thus it was found needful to make a small charge on each loan in order to cover these. To this the Dominicans objected, as a contravention of the law of the Church against usury.

"A literary controversy sprang up on this question, which was embittered by jealousies between the various orders. Here, as always, the Holy See adopted a line of wise moderation. Martin V had already declared the lawfulness of mortgages, and his successors followed his example in regard to the *Monte di Pieta.* The foundation of these institutions had been approved by Pius II, Paul II, Sixtus IV, Innocent VIII, and Julius II, finally, they were protected from all further attacks by a privilege granted to them by Leo X on May 4, 1515, in the fifth Lateran synod. They were allowed to demand a percentage on loans sufficient to defray the expenses of management, but no more than this. Any one who asserted this to be unlawful incurred excommunication. The fall in the rate of interest in the 16th Century to a great extent coincides with the prosperity of the Monte di Pieta."

In the proper of the mass which the Church has composed for Saint Bernardino da Feltre, which we celebrate on September 28th, we find incorporated the words of the seventy-first psalm, the text of which reads as follows:

"He shall deliver the poor from the mighty; and the needy that had no helper.
He shall spare the poor and needy: and he shall save the souls of the poor.
He shall redeem their souls from usuries and iniquity: and their names shall be honourable in his sight." Psalm 71; 12-14

Although these more or less nationally owned banks were established chiefly through the activity of Saint Bernardino; although the interest rate had fallen, nevertheless, the Jews and many Christians, notably those living under the patronage of the Medici, continued exacting 20 per cent interest even on gold receipts which they issued ten and twenty times in excess of the actual gold that they had in their possession!

(To be Concluded)

Father Coughlin

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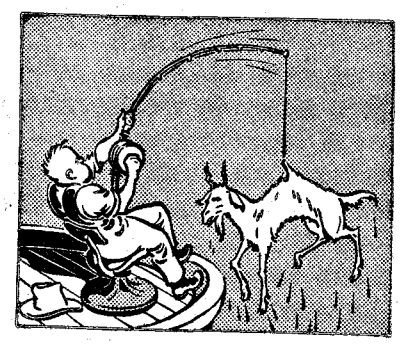

THE SPORT OF THE NATION

- POLITICAL FOOTBALL
- LOG ROLLING
- GOAT FISHING
- HOG CALLING
- BUBBLE-BLOWING
- HIDE AND SEEK
- SHIRT-STUFFING
- DUMMY WRESTLING

RAIL CRISIS: BANKERS vs. OVERALLS

Enginemen Water Engines, Moneymen Water Stock

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Capitalists really should do something about the railroads.

As everyone, or nearly everyone, knows the roads are in a bad way. Those streamlined trains cost money, and money—so we are told by the bondholders — is what the railroads haven't got much of.

That seems a bit funny, because from the beginning the railroads have been the pet hobby of bankers. And everything bankers fritter with has got money. Otherwise the bankers drop it faster than the Chicago Cubs dropped the fourth game of the World Series.

But that's all beside the point. The days of Jay Gould are as dead as the bonuses paid the roads for trains they never ran in those days. The railroads are short of "ready." O. K. Everyone will concede that for the sake of argument. But what the man in the street, or the man in the bathtub on Saturday night, is concerned about is that the popular thing is to blame the magnificent shortage on the workers who run the roads.

"RUN" AND "RUN"

Now, a distinction must be made between "run" in the sense of operate, and "run" in the sense of control. The engineers, firemen, brakemen, oilers, switch hands, freight clerks and peanut butchers keep the trains moving, but they do not declare dividends, negotiate loans, water stock and prescribe wage cuts. That's the exclusive function of the bankers, the original model railroad hobbyists.

The closest most railroad workers ever came to a "dividend" was the cut they got on a baseball pool. And at the same time the closest the average banker ever came to a manifest freight was the song "Casey Jones." The enginemen water the locomotive, but the bankers water the stock. The bankers are strong on "highballs," but not the kind seen on semaphore signals. And they're right there when it comes to "high pressure," and "pop-offs," but these terms have to do with handling the bankers' clientele, and not the regulation of locomotive boilers.

It is as unfair to saddle the workers with the railroads' losses as it would be to ask J. P. Morgan to put on a pair of overalls and fire the boiler of the Mercury Limited.

"INCOME, OH INCOME"

The railroad managers protest that the core of trouble is the need for greater "net operating income." This, it may be explained, is the difference between what the roads take in at the ticket windows and freight sheds, and what they pay out in wages and dividends.

LOOKS LIKE HENRY'S GOT SOMETHING THERE

—Washington Post

At present, the managers affirm, there is little or no net operating income. They'd like awfully much to get some. How? By cutting wages and increasing rates. "Sock the consumer and the wage earner," they say. That's the banker in them talking.

Then too, they want to snip the lines that tie the roads to the government through the Interstate Commerce Commission. They've been sharpening their knives for a long time to carve up the government, and it might not be such a bad idea at that.

But as far as this business of slugging $250-million out of the men in overalls who operate the roads, in order to pay for the shortcomings of the government and the bankers is concerned—well, as the Indian said:

"Ugh. Too much!"

EDITORIALS

NAZI SPIES ON TRIAL IN N. Y. COURT
Molehill Mountain.

ROOSEVELT LASHES DIES WITNESSES
Shoe pinches.

ELECTIONS BRING TEST OF NEW DEAL
W.P.A. project.

That's No Earthquake—It's Just Henry Wallace Shaking

WASHINGTON, D. C. — That recurring tremor you feel is not an earthquake—it's just Henry Wallace trembling over at the Department of Agriculture headquarters.

"Deadline" in Henry's farm newspaper days never had a more ominous meaning than "harvest time" has had in the current crop year. For Henry has seen his program of controlled crop scarcity backfire for the third time in six years.

Henry is the living example of the "man who played God." And he's finding that he's as ill-cast for the role as would be one of Singer's midgets playing Paul Bunyan.

A few years back the Supreme Court kicked out his A.A.A. with its ill-conceived program of artificial scarcity. Then the drought and the dust bowl gave him a specimen of natural scarcity that exceeded his wildest dream of crop burning and pig butchering.

LIBERAL FARM POLICY

But Henry hadn't learned. In the last Congressional session he directed legislative action on a new and far-reaching A.A.A. that gave the farmers full liberty, aside from telling them which fields they might use, what they might plant, how much they might plant, when they should market it, how much they should eat, how much they should sell, what they should sell it for, and how much the farmer's own chickens and cows might eat of the crop the farmer grew.

The farmers did not like this extreme liberality, of course. In the corn and wheat belts they told Henry so. And then natural forces took hold. Despite the elaborate and dictatorial systems of crop control, market control and price control, the crops went up; the prices went down. Now Henry is contemplating a subsidy to bolster the price to farmers on one hand; a subsidy to lower costs to the consumer on the other.

Henry is on the spot. There is no doubt about it. He washed his hands of the elections after dabbling in legislative pressure for passage of the pump-priming bill. He refused to take part in the attempted de-horning of Senator Guy Gillette in Iowa, partially on the advice of wise old Jim Farley. He took no part in the attempted general purge of his enemies by President Roosevelt.

ENEMIES — LOTS OF 'EM

But Henry didn't have to get into politics to make enemies for himself. His program and utterances on strictly farm matters did that for him. In central Illinois, Iowa and other corn states, the "Corn Belt Liberty League" arose to hurl his principles back on his front door step. In Georgia, New Deal senatorial candidate Lawrence Camp deleted Wallace's name from a speech, for fear of booing on the part of cotton growers.

In Texas, Henry's crop control planted the seed of a thoroughgoing revolution against his policies. In the northwest wheat belt, sporadic uprisings shouted down the agents who would salve over the bill's shortcomings. Henry himself took a swing through the middlewest, stumping for what was left of his shredded wheat-program.

Now Henry is confronted with a record number of enemies. Nearly all the farmers are "agin" him. All the Republicans are, naturally. The purge faction of the Democratic party opposes him as a New Dealer, and the absolute New Dealers oppose him as an independent.

Henry might as well quit. All he has are intentions. If they are good, they only pave the road to Satan's baliwick. And if they're bad, then why are we permitting him to remain in the Cabinet, anyway?

OF MUSE & MEN

STICKS AND STONES

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

THAT philosophic childhood rhyme may or may not be full of good sense, but it certainly is not concurred in by the *Communist Daily Worker*, or the C.I.O.

The *Worker* long ago thought up the device of name-calling to distract attention from facts. Thus "red-baiter," "stool pigeon," "stooge," "fascist," "nazi," "Hitlerite," "hired thug," "hired spy," "flatfoot," and limitless other terms were whipped into play.

A recent picture caption in the C.I.O. paper shrieked in this fashion: "The Dies committee returned from the middlewest and is back in town—and with it the inevitable string of *phony witnesses*. Here are two new ones: Steve Gadler, Republican who *redbaited* against the Minnesota Farm-Labor party, and Jake Spolansky, *third-rate flatfoot who redbaited* against the C. I. O. automobile workers."

Fakers, stooges, rats, dogs, skunks—all are terms in good standing in the vocabulary of the *Daily Worker*, and the *C.I.O. News*. In fact they even leak into the copy of the Oxford-graduate, Communist editor of the paper, Len De Caux, and ponderous Heywood Broun, feverish columnist.

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The Week in the News

EYES and EARS
OVER THE CAPITOL
by Mark Meecham

America Goes On the War Path

WHILE the nation's voters and M. C.'s are concerning themselves about who our next Congress will be, a greater decision is being made in our nation's capital. There, right now, is being decided *what the members of our next Congress will do.* The question that is being answered concerns our national defense,—or, more accurately, America's *preparation for war.*

It is no secret to those familiar with the inner workings of the present administration, that as early as last May—even before Congress adjourned—plans were under way for the expenditure of several billions of dollars by the American Government—the taxpayers—for armaments. They started printing the money last June — *although the expenditure itself cannot even be authorized officially until Congress convenes in* 1939. The amount now planned is $7½-billion, and the propaganda campaign to promote the expenditure is already in full swing.

* * *

About four months ago—after the spending plans had been completed—Mr. Bernard Baruch went to Europe on a "diplomatic mission" for the American Government.

Now Americans, on the whole, are inclined to underestimate the importance of this distinguished gentleman's position in American Government. They do not remember that he held a very important position as head of all war industries during the last war. They have forgotten that only last fall, it was Mr. Baruch who made America "aware" of the grave danger to us in the Chino-Japanese war, after a White House conference — which "grave warning" begot a $2-billion naval expansion program at the very next session of Congress! Nor do they realize that this kindly looking, white-haired gentleman (whose only title is that of "adviser to Presidents") has enjoyed an entree to the White House during both the Hoover and Roosevelt administrations, that can only be compared to that of the late Colonel House during the greater part of the Wilson presidency.

Abroad when the Czech crisis threatened, Mr. Baruch immediately headed for home. The war in Europe would make it almost inevitable that the United States increase her "defense." And then—all unforseen—peace broke out in Europe and the only "crisis" left to terrorize America was a peace treaty at Munich. But the money was still being printed—and the spending plans still went on.

About three weeks ago, Mr. Baruch tried again. In an interview in a Canadian newspaper, he reported that "the threat to the United States from Germany is in South America—*and is real and immediate.*" He demanded, also, that America at once spend $7½-billion for defense.

This time it worked. Mr. Baruch had got the ball into play. United States newspapers gained a few yards as they editorially chorused, "Yes, Mr. Baruch," and then President Roosevelt took it through the line for a first down.

Although many citizens failed to hear the President's speech last week, its importance to our national future should not be minimized. It was unusual for Mr. Roosevelt, in that it lacked much of the extra-fine phraseology that customarily distinguishes his speeches. It was short, matter-of-fact and to the point—but, and this is important, it told the people exactly what the United States expects to do.

The President backed up Mr. Baruch's interpretation of the Munich peace as an "ignominious defeat" for democracy, affirming that "peace by fear has no more enduring quality than peace by the sword."

Furthermore, he proclaimed America's determination "to use every endeavor in order that the Western Hemisphere may work out its own interrelated salvation in the light of its interrelated experience."

In plain English, the President reaffirmed his Canada bridge dedication speech, with a warning to the world that to attack or molest anybody in the Western Hemisphere (including Mr. Baruch's South America) is to incur the enmity of the United States Government. Of course, they expect America to arm sufficiently to make this threat good.

This speech must be considered as a whole, because the implications of the whole are so much greater than the contextual sum of its parts.

For example, the President orated nobly that "there can be no peace if economic resources that ought to be devoted to economic and social reconstruction are diverted to an intensified competition in armaments," only to inform us, a minute later, that "if there is not general disarmament, we ourselves must continue to arm."

In other words: peace, it's wonderful—but WE can't have it! The only way we can have peace is not to enter an armaments race, but if there is going to be a race, we must enter. WHY?

* * *

The only country near enough to attack us is Canada—to whom we are already allied in the event of war. If it is "defense" we want, why ask Congress for billions to build an army and navy, when 6,000 airplane bombers on each coast, and 6,000 more in the center, could annihilate battleships full of attacking Japanese or attacking Germans (those nations seem to cause Mr. Roosevelt's greatest fears) faster than their country could ship them over?

No American battleship nowadays is built for defense. Battleships have only one use in a war—to carry food and supplies and men to the warring countries. Is that what we are about to spend $7½-billion for? Is our preparedness to be "defensive" or are we to engage in aggressive armament? Congress—the Congress we will elect on Tuesday—has the power to decide.

* * *

The new Congress, fresh from a campaign among American constituents, should know by now that the people do not even want to prepare for an aggressive war—*let alone fight one.*

And more important—they should have learned by now what the alert Senator Borah tried to tell them during the last session:

"There is greater danger to our democracy in that vast army of unemployed camped in every city, town and village throughout the land; in that 50-million men, women and children living in constant sight of the poverty line, poorly clad and poorly fed; in the hundreds of thousands, (with the number increasing every year), of malformed and rickety children; in the five million girls and boys who leave our schools finding no avenue in which to engage their energies—*more danger here, by far, than in any fleet of battleships which any nation or group of nations may choose to send against us.*"

PROGRAM
Massachusetts Voters To Face the Issue

THE Massachusetts Democratic slate, moving toward election this week, continued its campaign for several parts of the social justice program.

The ticket, headed by gubernatorial candidate James Michael Curley, gained strength as the press of the nation amid political wrangling, made mention of the liberal labor policies of Curley and drew sharply the issue in the state: Back Bay "Blueblood-ism," vs. the common people.

The *St. Louis Post Dispatch,* in a story signed by Spencer R. McCulloch, gave a complete treatment to the Curley candidacy, indicating the nationwide interest attaching to the Bay State campaign. Mr. McCullough characterized Curley as a man "of unusual personal charm, with a masterly platform manner that literally hypnotizes audiences, and a radio voice which Harvard University professors of speech say equals those of President Roosevelt and the late King George V of England, who relies on a personal following."

Summing up, the interview states of Curley that "Massachusetts residents either hate him or love him. There is no middle ground."

But, regardless of the affection or animosity with which Bostonians view their candidates, there is one point in the campaign which, in the interest of social justice, must not be overlooked. That is the speech which candidate Curley gave last week concerning the living annual wage and the new wage-hour law.

Of course, practically everyone purports to want a living wage for labor, but it takes the courage of conviction for a political candidate to advocate a wage which even the national administration could not urge.

In his radio speech last week, Mr. Curley qualified his remarks with specific recommendations. Opposing the new wage-hour law because it does not provide for a living wage, the Massachusetts democrat declared his belief that it would take at least a 40 to 60 cent minimum wage for a working man to supply his family's needs. At the same time, he stated that other classes of labor are just as entitled to a just annual wage as are the federal, state and city employes, and as are the owners of industry themselves.

What can Mr. Curley do if elected?

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY of the state of Massachusetts, includes in its platform several points gleaned from the 16 principles of Social Justice. Leading the Democratic ticket is gubernatorial candidate James M. Curley who, in a previous administration, enacted 28 liberal labor measures; increased old age pensions; sponsored social security; stood foremost for liberalism.

If he is a real friend of social justice, the following will be incorporated in his program:

1. Utilize idle factories in Massachusetts, the idle factories now confiscated by the Government for non-payment of taxes.

2. Invite industries to occupy these factories, rent-free, and tax-free for ten years, thus supplying work for labor.

3. Reduce the assessments by $2,000 on all city property and by $500 for country properties.

4. Declare a tax moratorium on all new buildings to be undertaken for the next ten years.

5. Establish a State Bank of Massachusetts, owned by the people of Massachusetts, for the purpose of refinancing all the state debt, municipal debt and county debt, at a rate of interest not greater than 2½ per cent.

6. Encourage the people to deposit their money in the state bank, so that the people's money may be used to liquidate the people's debt, instead of its passing into the hands of private bankers who use it to their own profit.

7. Remove all taxes on industrial machinery to the end that manufacturers will be invited to return to Massachusetts.

8. Build both the foundation and the structure of a living annual wage for all labor willing and able to work.

9. Revise the scheme of taxation so that it will be levied according to capacity to pay.

10. Oppose the philosophy of radical leisurism, and rebuild the philosophy of work on the basis that wealth is produced by work and not by idleness.

11. Revamp the system of education to exclude from the schools of Massachusetts, radical teachers, radical theories and radical textbooks; and inaugurate a compulsory system of homework for grammar and high school students to the end that there will be sown in their minds the seeds of work—more work and less pleasure which parades under the fiction of idleness.

12. Legislate into being a state-owned and controlled industrial insurance corporation, to be operated by a commission, non-political in character.

This is the beginning of a program of social justice which can never be expected to emerge from the veins of blue-blood bankers. It is a program which, if Mr. Curley is sincere, he will not hesitate to adopt if elected.

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The Week in the World

CANADA

Armament Contract Scandal Aired

OTTAWA, CANADA—A munitions investigation is now being made under the softer title of a judicial inquiry by Mr. Justice Davis, of the Supreme Court, into a contract for Bren machine guns secured by the John Inglis Company of Toronto, which threatens to develop into a Canadian Teapot Dome scandal despite the heroic efforts to keep the facts in the background.

The inquiry has been in session for over a month and several important witnesses are due to testify. The British War Office, under considerable pressure from the Canadian government, has reluctantly agreed to allow its share of the incriminating correspondence to be used as evidence. The British War Office is involved because it augmented the Canadian order for 7,000 Bren guns with an order of its own for an additional 5,000 guns.

The Bren Gun is the latest and most efficient type of machine gun. According to J. A. Stevenson, foreign correspondent of the *Baltimore Sun,* who is reporting the inquiry, on October 6, Mr. Hugh Plaxton, young Liberal member for a Toronto District, brought to the office of General Lafleche, the Deputy-Minister of National Defense, one Major J. E. Hahn, a Torontonian, who had been engaged in the radio manufacturing business and other activities. There Major Hahn set eyes upon a sample specimen of a Bren machine gun, all set up most conveniently, as things turned out. In fact, the dashing Major seems to be the fly in the ointment, and there is little doubt, but that he is but a front man representing much bigger interests.

Learning that the Canadian government wanted a supply of these guns, he evinced great interest in it. At his request, the Bren gun was shipped to Toronto under the escort of an armorer-sergeant in order that Major Hahn might study it. Just who authorized the transfer so that the major and his friends might study it has not been brought out at this writing. However, his friends concluded that here was a very profitable opportunity and they decided to go in for the manufacture of this instrument of quick death.

However, the British War Office, controlled the rights for the British Commonwealth about Bren guns, and, as the Canadian government needed only 7,000, and 12,000 was the number estimated to be needed for profitable production, it was decided that they should obtain an additional order from the British government for the extra 5,000 units.

Thereupon, Major Hahn, accompanied by Mr. Plaxton, proceeded to London with a letter of personal introduction to Mr. Mackenzie, the Minister of National Defense, to Mr. Massey, the Canadian High Commissioner in London, and further credentials that he represented "a reliable group which controls manufacturing plants capable of manufacturing armaments and munitions."

In London Mr. Massey filled the role of introducer. A wide-awake section of the War Office was at first quite leery about Major Hahn—subsequently justified—and wanted better credentials before it would give him confidential information about the Bren machine guns. Major Hahn's "connections" brought pressure to bear on Mr. Mackenzie. As a result Major Hahn was nominated as the official representative of the Canadian government as far as Bren guns were concerned, and then, of course, the War Office took him to its bosom. Leslie Hore-Belisha had a hand in the pressure and some claim that Major Hahn is being used by the Rothschilds.

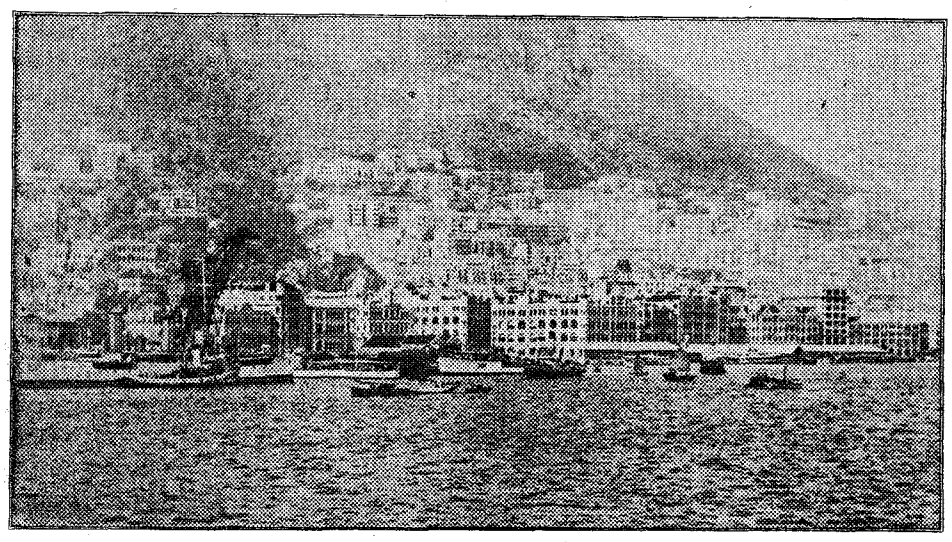

Photo shows city of Victoria on the island of Hong Kong, prize colony of Great Britain in the Far East. (Acme)

The Director-General of the British War Office was only too glad to get Bren machine guns manufactured in Canada, inasmuch as England is crowded to the hilt as far as production equipment for armaments was concerned, but he wanted the Canadian government to act as agent in the matter to protect the interests of the British government. However, such a course was against the declared policy of the King Ministry, so the War Office was forced into the compromising position of agreeing to take 5,000 guns on the understanding that the Canadian government was taking 7,000. Mind you, all this time, the Canadian people did not even know what was transpiring in their name and a lot of honest government officials didn't either.

The contracts calling for the manufacture of 12,000 Bren machine guns was duly signed and affixed with the Royal Seals and the John Inglis Company had it "in the bag," without the necessity of competing, examination of equipment, etc., and proceeded with its plans to produce the guns.

However, the honest officials of the Canadian government got word of the matter and the investigation was ordered.

One of the embarrassing disclosures is the fact that when the Department of National Defense accredited Major Hahn as the controller of plants equipped for manufacturing munitions, it was before their own inspector, a Mr. Alguire, had reported that the "extensive equipment" of Major Hahn's was nothing more than a "broken-down boiler factory that was only good for heavy engineering work" and that it would have to be scrapped and a new plant built before it could even hope to undertake the manufacture of aircraft or munitions or machine guns.

It was further brought out that Major Hahn and his friends had invested the modest sum of $160,485 in the plan and the company out of which they hoped to clean up several million dollars.

Another fact disclosed to date is that in defending the contract to the House of Commons, Mr. Mackenzie declared that he had never met Major Hahn until after the contracts were signed. He must have forgotten that months before he had given Major Hahn a warm personal letter of introduction and made him an official representative of the government. Perhaps we should not be too harsh on Mr. Mackenzie; no doubt he was forced to act as he did and although he was publicly accused of "a lack of candor which is both distressing and culpable," it must be borne in mind that too many of public officials are completely in the control of financial interests and munition makers who dictate their actions.

HONG KONG

Britain's Trade Gateway Closed

WITH the fall of Canton to the Japanese, the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong assumes new importance in the commercial rivalry that is behind the story in the Far East. The British ruling powers (not the British people, but the permanent guardians of the Empire) are endeavoring to assess the extent of the Oriental debacle to date with a view of protecting their trading and financial interests.

The chief concern at the present time is the paralysis of traffic by the destruction of bridges, railways and roads, by the retreating Chinese forces. These vital arteries of trade will seriously halt the distribution of goods from Hong Kong. As one of the busiest ports in the world, it is the chief distributing point for freight of all kinds along the South China coast and for the assembly of cargoes from all parts of the Far East.

Hong Kong, with a total civil population of approximately one million crowding an island of little more than 32 square miles, has been the bottle neck to the rich, trading areas of Canton that the Japanese forces have now conquered. The speed of the invasion has been a costly blow to the British industrialists—mostly under the domination of the Rothschilds and the Sassoons, who never thought that the Japanese would succeed so quickly. Part of these investments are in textile factories, with their cheap labor facilities, which threw English textile and American textile employes out of work and ruined their small owners. There is thought to be little likelihood of any compensation for them.

As Hong Kong is fortified today, it could not withstand an attack from the entire Japanese fleet for more than three weeks according to military experts. It does not rank with Singapore which has been so fortified that it is believed to be practically impregnable.

The Japanese may be too wily to risk a war with Great Britain by attempting to seize Hong Kong, but by cutting off the distribution of Hong Kong imports and exports by control of Canton, they can ruin Hong Kong's commercial supremacy, wiping out huge investments.

RUSSIA

Press Predicts U. S. As Ally

ACCORDING to the Russian papers, the elections in America will determine whether we will play ball with the dictators or line up with the internationalists – including Moscow, London, and Paris. The Russian writers firmly believe that if America throws her weight into the balance with the internationalists, they can "overthrow Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, bring about the destruction of Poland, the defeat of the Japanese in China, and create civil war in Japan."

Of course, they never dwell on how these things are to be accomplished; it is assumed that war is necessary for the triumph of their own ideals which are so false that they are only a mirage to those who endeavor to grasp them.

Pravda declares: "American elections always play a great role, not only in the internal policy, but in the foreign policy as well. President Roosevelt and his cabinet have convinced themselves the so-called neutrality of America is in the end harmful for democracy and stimulates aggression. We, in Russia, must remember that the question about America's entry into the World War was decided before the end of the election campaign of 1916, but President Wilson agreed to declare war against Germany only after his second election as President."

Are we to assume that after the election, we will swing into action with Russia which now classifies itself as a democracy, although we know it to be a ruthless dictatorship, and join the war mongers and hurl ourselves into the abyss?

Pravada even asserts that these Americans are using most "unfair" methods when they reiterate the former Communist contentions that annulment of the neutrality act means war, and war with the present staggering national debt and deficit means inflation, and wild inflation means loss of savings, confidence, and economic chaos, and chaos means war.

The *Moscow Izvestia* reports that although Americans do not want to become involved in a war, still the American Communist Party and all its affiliated organizations, including more than 300 publications in every language, are cleverly using popular pacifism to develop hatred against the Fascist countries; against Japan, Italy and Germany. American public opinion is now being persuaded to believe the neutrality act helps these aggressor countries and a popular movement to annul this act is being organized.

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THE TRAGEDY OF SPAIN

By
VIRGINIA McKAY

Part Four — The Exodus. American Refugees From Red Spain Ate Their Thanksgiving Day Dinner in 1936 Aboard the U. S. Cruiser Raleigh

AMERICANS were called into the Embassy on November 5th, and we remained there three weeks before being evacuated from Loyalist Spain. The American Government took excellent care and protection of each of us. We had the best food in Madrid—thanks also to the generosity of the Spanish people.

Although life here was comparatively tranquil, a pall hung over everything. We could hear the thunder of artillery fire and occasional rifle and machine-gun fire day and night. Almost daily, parties of 30 of us would stand in the Embassy garden watching as many as 90 and 100 planes, droning and filling the sky with terror. Once a machine gun bullet clipped off a branch of a tree over our heads. After that, we were ordered to remain indoors.

At midnight we often heard airplanes close overhead, never knowing whether they belonged to the Loyalists or the Insurgents. Sirens roused us at 2 and 3 a. m. to make us troop down to the main floor and the basement. But, the bombs always hit other places and spared us.

Discussion of Spanish politics was strictly banned. But, we did get many inside stories from the newspaper men who returned at night to sleep in the Embassy building. They told us of *foreign supply ships flying the English flag in Spanish ports*. An American news-reel photographer, hiding from Spanish authorities after being gotten out of jail, told us he had taken a picture of an aerial bombardment of a food line, but he had seen no planes. A policeman rushed up to him, grabbed his film, and had him sent to jail. The "bombhole," the cameraman said, was about a foot and a half in diameter!

AT 7 o'clock in the morning of the day before Thanksgiving, November 26, 1936, two busses came to the beautiful Embassy palace on Cisne Street to take us to a waiting cruiser at Valencia. It was rainy and dismal. To the west, the rifle and machine-gun fire in the trenches around University City made an isochronous, monotonous racket, punctuated now and then by the sharp explosion of a shell.

Outside the city limits, sand bag barricades lined the road. To one side, starkly loomed the "Hill of the Angels," now renamed the "Red Hill." Here, the militiamen had shot down a statue of the Savior. Here, too, had been located a monument marking the geographic center of Spain.

There were 53 of us in the two bus loads—men, women and families, including a middle aged man who suffered from cancer of the stomach. The private cars of Mr. Johnson, the American consul, who was going to France, and of Mr. Boland More, vice consul, preceded the motorcade. The military attache, Col. Stephen Fuqua, and his assistant, Mr. Williams, came along. Three newspaper men, among them Edward Knoblaugh of the Associated Press, author of *"Correspondent in Spain,"* were also in the party.

At 10 p. m. we arrived in Valencia, after a tiring trip under a continuous downpour. Although the city had not yet felt the full effects of the war and food was still plentiful, some signs were already beginning to appear, showing the new conditions of life—windows criss-crossed with strips of paper to prevent shattering as a result of bomb concussion. Various cruisers were lying about the harbor, like silent watchers.

The sleek lines of the American cruiser, the *Raleigh*, were outlined against a murky, angry Mediterranean. A launch was on its way to the pier, bobbing up and down with the waves. At the pier a detachment of American sailors stood ready to help the refugees.

At a word from the Charge d'Affaires, Eric Wendelin—to whom every American in Madrid owes a vote of thanks for his untiring efforts in our behalf—we left the busses and lined up at the pier for the final check and personal search by the Loyalist authorities before boarding the *Raleigh*.

THE women in our party were made to go, one by one, into a small room where a gray-haired, sad and motherly looking matron conducted a most painstaking search. We were asked to undress and deposit our clothes on a table. The matron then most carefully went through pockets, sleeves and linings, looking for possibly hidden silver money. Not more than 1,000 pesetas in paper were allowed to be taken out of the country.

The old woman acted with a certain reluctant sense of duty. She found a rosary in the purse of one woman. After a moment's hesitation and with a look full of meaning, she softly handed it back and whispered in a half-choked voice, *"You keep this!"*

The men were going through a similar procedure in a nearby room. When the last one of us had gone through the tedious process, the shivering and hungry group, rather irritable by now, gave a collective sigh of relief. In a few moments we all took our places in the officers' launch. Never before had the idea of being an American so patently meant to us such a feeling of warm comfort and security as at that moment, when the launch's boatswain held his outstretched hand to help us on board.

As soon as the boat left the quay, however, a new ordeal confronted us. The man with the cancer became green with sickness and several of the rest of us became violently ill, partly from looking at him. Finally, with a last lurch as the engine went into reverse, the launch stopped alongside the cruiser's ladder. A couple of husky blue jackets practically lifted us on board and guided us to the quarter-deck, where the ship's captain made us cordially welcome.

For a moment we all stood on deck, looking toward Valencia through the intervening black waters, whipped into a fury now by the mounting Mediterranean wind. The lights were shining dimly ashore. From the distance it all seemed peaceful. But we knew the tragedy that hid behind the tranquil scene and were glad to leave that land of suffering where we had been innocent victims for five terrible months. On the other side of the ship the inky emptiness of the sea stretched forth to the horizon—France, Marseilles, freedom!

A courteous officer bade us go below to the wardroom, where the surgeon innoculated us against typhoid. After that we sat down to a plentiful dinner. It was Thanksgiving Day, and we had more reasons than one to be thankful.

The most commonplace events can sometimes take on an unsuspected significance. Here was a very commonplace dinner—no turkey (with apologies from the chief mess attendant), just hot chicken, apple pie and coffee—but one which to us meant deliverance from the forced diet of everlasting chick peas and lentils, eaten in the crowded stuffiness of the servants' quarters in the Madrid Embassy, while the din of airplanes filled the air and the shafts of searchlights pierced the clouds.

There was little talk at this Thanksgiving meal. There was clear on every face, a solemn realization that at last we had set foot again on a part of the world where there were no breadlines and where dinner consisted of something more than fried bread crumbs and pimento and more fried crumbs soaked with a watery chocolate sauce—the fare that had been my lot before taking refuge in the haven of the American Embassy in Madrid.

Wide World

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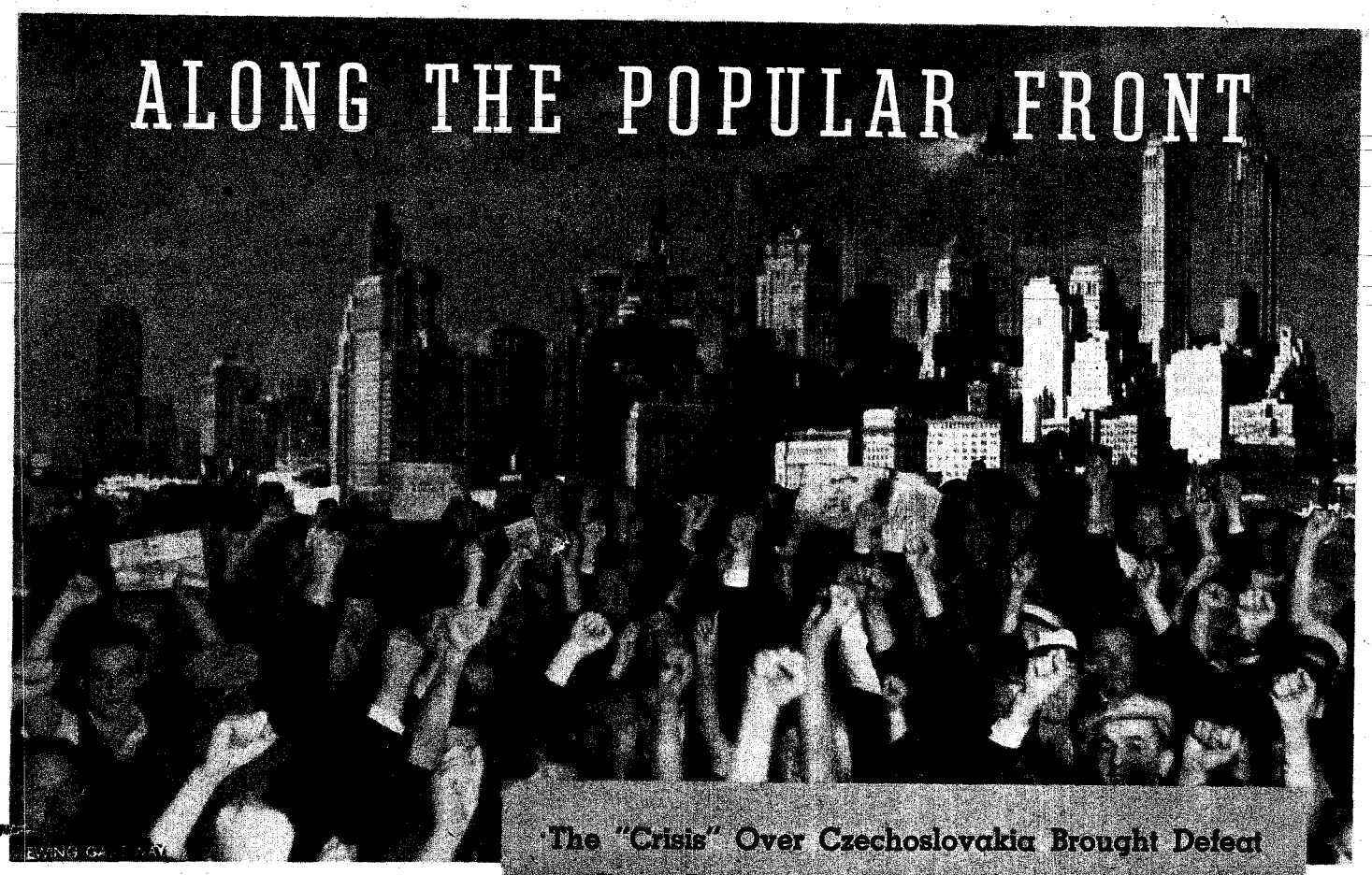
ALONG THE POPULAR FRONT



The "Crisis" Over Czechoslovakia Brought Defeat in Great Britain and France; Only in the United States Did Communist Propaganda Succeed.

By LEON HAMILTON

THE curtain has not been drawn back far enough yet—but when it is lifted completely over the world's stage, America and the other true democracies will learn how narrowly they have escaped a world chaos, plotted by the Comintern of Soviet Russia in the hectic fortnight before the accord of Munich.

For, just as surely as Maxim Litvinov stomped, stormed and cursed in Geneva when news of the "monstrous" peace pact of Munich was flashed around the globe, so surely had deputies of the Popular Front in England, France and America spent the preceding fortnight deceiving, cajoling, plotting, encouraging and threatening world peace and world powers.

Their object of course was to fan the Czechoslovakian spark into a raging, world-wide fire — a war from which no nation could hope to emerge as it had entered; a war in which democracies would fall, totalitarian states would fall, and the godless amalgamation of destruction and dictatorship—Communism—would arise as the sole victor.

What happened in that fateful fortnight?

Only this: The Popular Front in every nation drew tight the lines it had set up in the last decade for just such an emergency. It tugged and pulled frantically—but only in America did it find that the popular will was changed by its tugging. In every other nation the Popular Front *suffered a staggering defeat!*

The Big Four of the Munich conference — France, Great Britain, Germany and Italy—had no use, and less respect, for Soviet Russia. They ignored the Comintern's strongest threats and cajolery. England and France knew that the Czech president, Dr. Benes, had been guilty of deception in dealing with Chamberlain and Daladier.

THE Comintern sought a war in which France, Great Britain and America would have to fight side by side with Russia for the pretended protection of Czechoslovakia, but actually for the crushing of the "dictators."

Brainstormers of the Popular Front realized that the dismemberment of the Czech state would mean the end of Russia's deceptive parade as a world power. It would mean the end of a well organized Communist network of propaganda operating from Prague. And it would mean the end of Russia's supreme opportunity to ally with the world's democracies in a victorious war that would open democratic nations to a flood tide of Russian ideas and influence.

America's well-marshaled Popular Frontists played their part well. In the press and over the air, in meeting hall and even in church, their deputies, both conscious and unwitting, played tunes of hatred for Chamberlain and Daladier, who were "willing to sacrifice Czechoslovakia."

The barrage they cast up was quite successful in clouding the sincere desire for peace on the part of Chamberlain and Daladier—statesmen who would not hesitate to save the lives of millions of their citizens, by correcting a grave mistake that had been made in the Treaty of Versailles.

The Popular Frontists had an able agitator in Johannes Steele, a former secret agent of Germany before Hitler, now a racial, political and social enemy of the Nazis, who clarioned: "The England of Mr. Chamberlain is not the true England, the democratic England—just as the France of Daladier is not the France of the Popular Front, the true democratic France . . . The thing that I cannot understand and seems almost inconceivable is that no storm of indignation in England or France has yet swept the Chamberlain and Daladier governments out of office . . . What has happened to the leaders of the Popular Front, to the elements that compose the Popular Front, that they do not protest against the most shameful betrayal in modern history? . . . Does Chamberlain really intend to deliver Western civilization to the new Anti-Christ?"

Now, Mr. Steele may not have been the official mouthpiece of the Popular Front, but at least he was an expert unofficial mouthpiece who at once called upon the people of France and England to revolt against their governments, and at the same time sought to taunt the Popular Front into further outrages.

Another able friend of the Popular Frontists was the Columbia Broadcasting System's interpretative genius — none other than Baron Hans von Kaltenborn. He participated in C.B.S.'s stupendous $200,000 propaganda show—a show that dwarfed all previous partisan propaganda attempts, as the Baron's nasal wheezes, innuendos and interjections were sandwiched between news broadcasts, musical programs and standard air features.

Although the kept columnists and subsidized syndicates acclaimed the Baron and his propaganda as "an outstanding example of reporting," a factual analysis of this news reporting indicates definitely that it was editorializing of the most one-sided sort with a view to creating a warlike spirit in America; with a determined intention of moulding a pro-leftist mind in this country.

CROWDS rioted in New York and other metropolitan centers as these twisted radio commentators spilled their words of hatred. Population blocs bewailed the crucifixion of Czechoslovakia, the "twin Judases" Chamberlain and Daladier who had betrayed the interests of a sovereign people to a "bullying Nazi dictator." A cross-section view of the American public showed that youths who, a fortnight before the Munich conference, declared they would never participate in a foreign war were so inflamed and incensed by the propaganda that they loudly expressed their willingness to fight the "world's bully," Hitler.

Young men and women who, a short while before the crisis reached its apex, exhibited not the slightest interest in their own democracy suddenly were obsessed with an all-impelling desire to defend world democracy against the threat of the totalitarian states.

In America, at least, the war-makers had done their job well.

In Moscow, over the powerful Russian broadcasting station, the Comintern screamed its lamentation: "Chamberlain has saved the ruling classes at the expense of the toiling masses . . . France has ceased to be a great power." Moscow had just learned that the labor unions, backbone of the French Popular Front, readily accepted the Munich accord, and that *"Ce Soir,"* Parisian Popular Front newspaper, praised Chamberlain as the peace maker of the age.

In a moment of national emergency the French Popular Front turned to true patriots for guidance, and rejected the counsels of Litvinov. They accepted peace instead of war. The French general staff had learned significant facts concerning Russia's military strength. They learned that Russia's armies, celebrated in Red propaganda, were poorly equipped and trained, as had been those of the Czar in the last war. The rout of two divisions of Soviet soldiers by two battalions of Japanese in Manchuria told them more than a five foot shelf of propaganda books.

They became convinced that Russia was no more fit for war than was Haile Selassie. The pressure of internal unrest would blow the lid from the Stalin dictatorship as soon as the outside pressure of the army was lifted.

In Britain the great majority of the rank and file radicals, save the professed international Communists, rallied in self defense around Chamberlain and his ministry. The crisis served to solidify the position of the Prime Minister, who heretofore had been riddled with the snipings of propagandists marshaled to promote the cause of Anthony Eden. Labor leaders, progressives in government—all lined up solidly behind the great prime minister. His popular accord was so great that his political advisors counselled him to call for a popular expression of confidence, should the internationalists in government threaten to oust him and his cabinet.

ONLY in America did it happen that the Popular Front carried any weight when the day of opportunitiy arrived. In Britain and France the masses clamored for peace. In America a noisy minority clamored for war and sold another inarticulate minority on the idea of warfare. They dragged forth the regrettable and ridiculous slogan of World War days, "Let's make the world safe for Democracy," and started it around the kerosene circuit on another run — the slogan America remembered with chagrin still retained much of its old time pulling power, they found out.

And because only America was a "fall guy" among the nations, Americans may now expect to be salted with the most complete, thoroughgoing campaign of pro-Russian propaganda ever attempted since the Kerensky revolt.

In England and France the Popular Front already is plotting revenge on Chamberlain and Daladier for its unexpected defeat.

In America, glowing with the intoxication of unexpected victory, it is planning to weld liberal political parties, radical labor unions, discontented popular elements, innocents, stooges and fellow travelers into a giant Popular Front spider to control America's political, social and economic destiny.

Communism is nothing but the proletarian mask behind which "such financiers as the Schiffs and Warburgs, the Kuhns and Baruchs, attain their economic and political objects," declared William Joyce in an address to the British Council Against European Commitents, adding, "We are on the eve of a decision that will make or break civilization. What we demand is that no drop of British blood shall be shed for the purpose of rehabilitating Jewish interests!"

The Popular Front will load every electron in the ether with propaganda, every word in the press with indoctrination, every picture in the cinema with one-sided presentation and interpretation, and every sentence in the play with prejudice and bias. The barrage only began with the recent crisis. Now watch for its growth.

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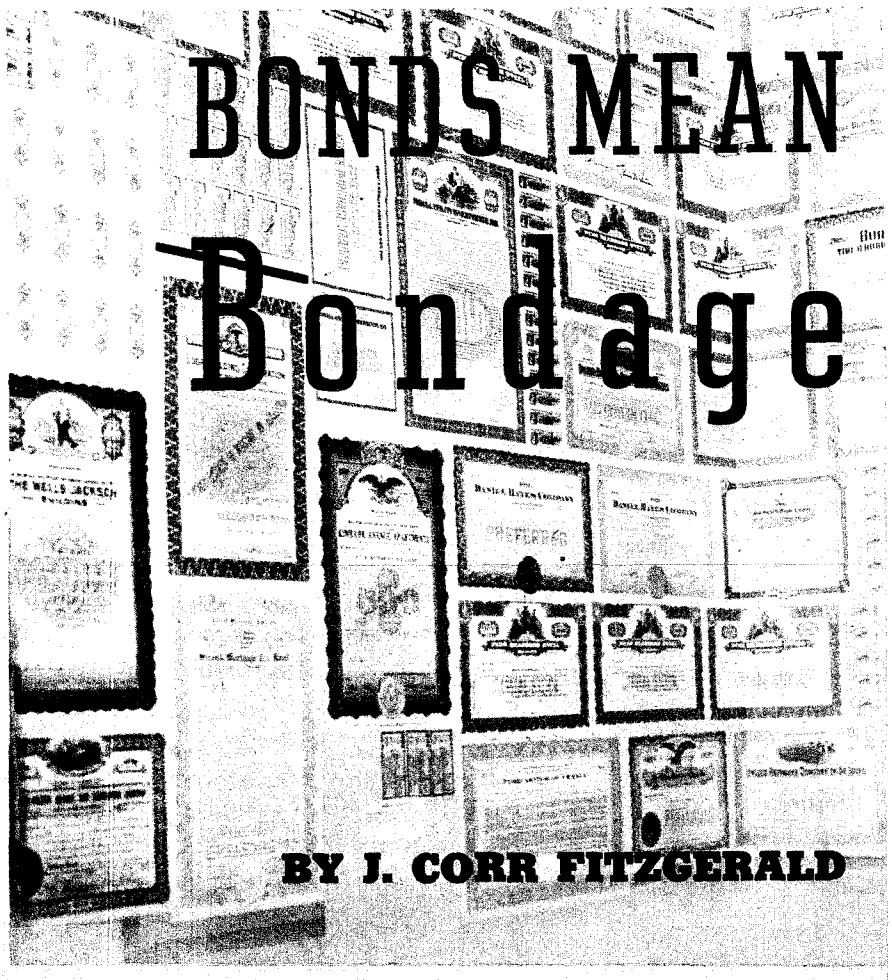

BONDS MEAN Bondage

BY J. CORR FITZGERALD

The Banker's Power to Create Credit Money Drawing Interest Is the Privilege of Private Interests to Tax the People.

THE notorious Federal Reserve Act, as amended, is a long, complicated, devious mass of legislation —over 350 pages—in which can be concealed the most astounding legal means of financial exploitation. And there is, perhaps, no better example of this than the Administration measure to extend the period during which direct obligations of the United States may be used as collateral security for Federal Reserve notes. In this connection, moreover, it should be remarked that the Secretary of the Treasury favored the bill; that President Roosevelt personally asked Representative Patman and others to cease their opposition to the bill; that all the voting Senators voted for it, and only 38 members of the House opposed it.

This amazing legislation, in its present form, was approved March 6, 1934, and renewed March 1, 1937, to be in effect until June 30, 1939. To the uninitiated observer this amendment to the Federal Reserve Act appears harmless enough because it merely adds another form of security which may be used as collateral for Federal Reserve notes. Yet in truth the measure provides a legal method of swindling the American people of billions of dollars.

The possibilities of exploiting the nation under cover of this amendment have already been analyzed by Mr. E. W. Mason in a letter to the Hon. Henry T. Rainey, Speaker of the House in 1934. Mr. Mason supplies us with the inside financial procedure which this pernicious legislation permits.

The bill provides that United States securities — Government bonds — may be used as collateral for Federal Reserve notes. At present the private corporation known as the Federal Reserve Banks has about $3-billions of United States Government bonds drawing about 2⅞ per cent interest. The banks, by offering the bonds as collateral and paying the cost of printing the currency, receive from the Government Federal Reserve notes equal to the collateral. But the bonds do not leave the bank, AND THE BANK CONTINUES TO RECEIVE THE INTEREST ON THE BONDS.

The average cost of printing the bills is 30c per $1,000, each bill regardless of the denomination costing 7/10ths of a cent.

IN 1934, President Roosevelt was desirous of floating $9-billions in bonds. The Hon. Henry T. Rainey asked Mr. Mason how this would work out under the new amendment to the Federal Reserve Act. As Mr. Mason's explanation is clear and adequate we shall follow his figures.

In the first operation the Federal Reserve Bank offers the United States Government $1-billion of bonds already owned and $300,000 in currency for printing charges and demands $1-billion of Federal Reserve currency. The bonds continue to pay interest to the bank, and the bank receives a billion dollars in new currency.

The bank now returns this billion dollars of currency to the Government to buy a billion of the new bonds which Mr. Roosevelt desires to float at 2⅞ per cent interest. The Government supplies the bonds to the bank, which leaves the bank in possession of $1-billion in new bonds. Accordingly, by spending $300,000 for printing, the bank has acquired an interest income the first year of $28,750,000, a net profit of $28,450,000, and $28,750,000 each year that the bonds remain outstanding!

It should be kept in mind that this new income is in addition to the interest rakeoff the bank is already receiving on the $3-billions of bonds already owned (?) by the bank.

The second operation is identical with the first. The bank tenders to the Government the $1-billion in new bonds just received, together with $300,000 in currency and asks for $1-billion of new bills. The bonds still pay interest to the bank, and the bank uses the new bills to buy another billion of new Government bonds. When the new bonds are delivered the bank's interest income has leaped to $57,500,000 annually at a cost to the bank of $600,000.

The third operation follows the same order. When it is completed the bank has $3-billion in Government bonds at 2⅞ per cent besides the $3-billion it had at the start. With an investment of $900,000 the bank's annual interest income has risen to $86,250,000.

Each succeeding operation is, of course, identical with the first. The fourth leaves the bank with an investment of $1,200,000 and a yearly interest take of $115,000,000. The fifth jumps the interest to $143,750,000, the sixth to $172,500,000, the seventh to $201,250,000, the eighth to $230,000,000, the ninth to $258,750,000. The total investment of the bank is a mere $2,700,000.

In his summary of the proceedings, Mr. Mason calls attention to the following: on the total investment of $2,700,000 the *daily* interest is $708,904; the daily interest on one dollar is over 26c; the yearly interest on one dollar is $95.83; the annual rate of interest on the investment is 9,583 per cent.

The bonds are normally *scheduled* to run for ten years, but experience shows us that *actually* such bonds remain outstanding indefinitely. As an example of this we have Liberty Bonds, Panama Canal and Cleveland Panic bonds still drawing interest. Thus the banks would be in a position to make as much as $20-billion on the investment. Yet granting the bonds run only ten years, the taxpayers would pay the bank during that period $2,587,500,000 in interest. This would amount to a profit of $958.30 on every dollar.

In his analysis of this incredible financial juggling, Mr. Mason says: "The only difference between giving these 9 billions of printing press money direct to the people instead of selling it to the bankers and borrowing it back is that the bankers are paid by the Government $258,750,000 a year by the latter method. It is still printing press money. I want to call your attention here to the difference between 'sound' and 'unsound' money. 'Sound' money pays interest to the bankers. 'Unsound' money pays them no interest."

What has been described is the financial manipulation which this Administration measure is calculated to promote. Under it, the possibilities for gigantic, legalized robbery are unbelievable. Yet this is the bill against which no Senator voted; opposed to which were only 38 members of the House.

IS it possible that the bankers and President Roosevelt understand all this? Must we conclude that the Federal Reserve bankers and the President were ignorant of the nature of this legislation? How shall we explain the following words of Mr. Roosevelt as found in the *Federal Reserve Bulletin* for February 1934: "It gives me pleasure at this time to express my appreciation of the splendid services that the Federal Reserve System has rendered in connection with our efforts to bring about recovery. It has been an institution of incalculable value throughout the twenty years of its existence; soon after its organization it was an important factor in enabling this country to aid in winning the war; and more recently it has given firm support to the Government's efforts in fighting the depression. It has stood loyally by the interests of the people by supplying them with a sound currency, by placing at the disposal of member banks a large volume of reserves available to finance recovery, by exerting a powerful influence toward the rehabilitation of the commercial banking system, and by co-operating in every way with the Government's financial program."

Here we find the President praising the banking corporation that for twenty years has saddled the country with debt, was largely instrumental in forcing the United States into the war, caused the panics of 1921 and 1929, and has kept the nation in the world's worst depression ever since. President Roosevelt is in very serious error.

What we are faced with is a monetary system that is *objectively* bad. We cannot take cognizance of *subjective* attitudes regardless of their sincerity. It is not enough that the bankers intend no evil, and that the representatives of the people mean well. It is absolutely imperative that they be prevented from any action which, without their wishing it, violates justice through the exploitation of the masses.

Our monetary system *is fundamentally bad in itself* because it is based on the private issue of all our money and credit. Under this system *every dollar we possess is a debt drawing interest to private citizens called bankers.* If our Government needs money to pay expenses and supply relief, it must go in debt to the bankers and pay them interest. Now, as this debt and interest must be paid by the people in taxes, it follows that the bankers are therefore able *to tax the people.* Yet taxing the nation is certainly a prerogative that belongs to the Government alone. It cannot be permitted to private citizens without grave injustice.

No person in the United States can have a dollar without paying a tribute in interest to the banker. If the banks decide to lend their pen-and-ink credit, we have money to do business; if they decide to cancel these loans, we have no money and so cannot do business. As Robert H. Hemphill expresses it, "We are completely at the mercy of the banks for our medium of exchange."

This is the *factual, objective* situation that faces us today. President Roosevelt's ideas or remarks about it do not affect it in the least. It remains the same sordid, unjust condition whether you praise or blame it. Our problem is to understand it; then we know whereof we speak.

Now all we need to understand is the incontestable principle that all matters relating to the issue of money and credit in a nation have their source in the supreme prerogative, in the Congress of the United States. The fiat of the Government alone makes money to be money. Therefore it is an intrinsic absurdity for any Government to *borrow* money or credit manufactured by private citizens. To do so is a grave crime on the part of the leaders of Government—a grave injustice against the people.

We cannot have anything but a fictitious prosperity unless the United States Government resumes its constitutional right to coin and issue the money of the nation. If the Government's relief and recovery program had been financed by issue of sound United States Notes, true legal tender money receivable for all debts public and private, this depression would have ended within six months. If we do not have Government control of all money and credit in their origin, we can have nothing else than accumulated debt and unpayable interest leading eventually to repudiation and chaos.

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THANK YOU, COMMANDER!

To the Editor:

Please permit me to congratulate you for publishing in your noted paper a true picture of the Legionnaire. The few words that you published in paying tribute to the "Man of the Week" in the September 19th issue should embed themselves in the minds of those who have always belittled the principles for which this great organization was founded.

Our great American Legion was organized for the purpose of upholding and defending the Constitution of our democracy, the United States of America, thereby preserving that for which our forefathers shed their blood.

We associate ourselves together to foster and to perpetuate only one "ism"—that is true 100 per cent Americanism. It is our duty to safeguard and to transmit to posterity those great principles of Americanism, justice, freedom and democracy.

We are pledged to promote peace and good will on earth but, at the same time, we are the "Minute Men" of today, ready again to shed our blood, if necessary, to preserve those sacred principles. May the time never come when we may again be called to safeguard the credit of the international bankers who, by their greed, forced thousands of Americans to suffer bloodshed while they enriched themselves with gold that dripped in the blood of those poor unfortunates.

The American Legionnaires know what these men went through. We are duty-bound to help those who did not die but who are now suffering in the many hospitals throughout the nation. Many are still going over the top. They never will know that there has been an Armistice. The end of the war will come to them only when the Great Commander of All relieves them of their agony.

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness is our principle towards those who have offered their lives for our nation. Our motto for GOD and Country means everything. Real Americans should appreciate the American Legion. Few publications have had the courage to picture the Legionnaire in such a way as Social Justice.

More power to your fine paper and to its fine principles!

—Herve C. Briere, Com.
Frank Allen Wilcox Post, No. 126
The American Legion.
Fall River, Mass.

WOULD PETITION CHAINS

To the Editor:

The refusal of the three large radio chains to sell Father Coughlin time on their chains is an infringement of the guaranteed constitutional right of free speech. However, this boycott by the radio networks can be broken if brought to the attention of every citizen, in Canada and the United States in particular. It can be made into a national issue if every citizen who loves free speech—whether or not he agrees with Father Coughlin — will unite in an effort to curb these three radio monopolies who are today challenging democracy by their dictatorial methods. Therefore, I herewith make the following suggestions:

(1) Three petitions should be signed by every person who believes in social justice and freedom of speech, the petitions to be sent to the National, Mutual and Columbia Broadcasting systems.

(2) Each person whose name appears on the petition should also write an individual letter, these letters to

be sent, along with the petitions, to the offices of these three broadcasting companies. They should threaten to boycott any program originating in the studios of the three networks and to boycott all products which are advertised on their chains.

(3) A copy of this petition, together with as many letters as possible, should be sent to the advertiser who uses these chains telling him of the impending boycott.

If the lovers of social justice will fight for their right of freedom of speech, the radio networks can successfully be brought around, as no manufacturer could stand up against such a boycott and a wholesale cancellation of radio time would begin.

This fight must begin immediately, as fall programs are coming back and we must act now.

Please publish these suggestions in your National Weekly and ask your readers what they think about them.

—John Clark
Toronto, Ont., Canada

A BLOCKADE OF THEIR OWN

To the Editor:

The thought has come to us that perhaps you would be interested to know of the procedure which we have followed here in Springfield, Massachusetts against the film, "*Blockade.*" Thus, we are giving you a brief summary of our activities.

About a month and a half before the picture arrived in Springfield, I contacted the presidents, as well as individual members, of several local organizations, asking them to protest the showing of this picture—as I had done—to the manager of the local Loew-Poli theatre, where it was supposed to run. I also wrote to the main office in New York City, and I might add that I received no reply to my letter.

When the actual date for the showing of "*Blockade*" had been set, officers and members of several local organizations met in the ballroom of Hotel Worthy in this city to devise ways and means to decrease the attendance at this theatre during the showing of this picture. Suggestions were made that a picket program be put into effect, but it was felt that this and other similar methods would only be an incentive for the curious to attend, thereby increasing rather than decreasing the attendance.

We decided instead to carry on a quiet crusade, ignoring any items in the local papers in favor of the film, and making no public announcements or comments in any way, but we did decide upon a plan whereby we would have several thousand post cards printed, each organization to take whatever number it thought it could dispose of to its members who, in turn, would distribute them among their friends, or to as many people as they could possibly induce to become interested by signing their names and addresses, and mailing them to the theatre on a staggering basis — and these cards are still going into the local Loew-Poli theatre. Of course we realized that this would not put a stop to this particular picture, but we did think it would have some effect upon the management in regard to accepting future pictures of this sort.

Perhaps the readers of Social Justice in other sections of the country may be interested in knowing about our activities.

Frank S. L'Annunziata, *Pres.*
The Catholic Action Club
Springfield, Mass.

MACHINERY MUST DISPLACE MEN

To the Editor:

I read a letter in your magazine yesterday by Mr. Pinchot to John L. Lewis. There is one statement in that letter I disagree with very much. Mr. Pinchot says: "Improved machinery does not take jobs from men; it rather makes more jobs." I take the negative side of this question with Mr. Roosevelt and others. I admit that when the automobile was invented, it created jobs for a while, but it's a different story today.

I know some will argue that when a company installs a new machine that replaces several men, it takes more men to build this improved machinery. It must be remembered, however, that there were men building the old type when the new was invented. So, when labor-saving machinery is installed and men are laid off, they are just out of a job, and everywhere they go they find that more work is being done with fewer men. Take, for example, the farm tractor; one man with a tractor will do as much work as five men and five teams of horses. Even if the other four men build tractors, what is there to do for the harness makers? The same story applies to many other instances.

My theory is to shorten the work day in proportion to the output efficiency of the improved machinery. Then everyone could find jobs today.

A FORCE GREATER THAN US

To the Editor:

Any man or nation can fight a war with steel and iron, which always proves unsuccessful for those who are slain. It is simply a case of following the animal instinct, a primitive tradition almost as old as the evolution of mankind.

But now we are beginning to realize that we are human beings and that no one has a monopoly on the life-giving elements radiating through the Universe by some strange and mystic power greater than man.

Slaughtering our fellow men on the battlefield is taking that which we cannot give. It is tampering with a Force greater than ourselves.

Unfortunately, too many cannot remember the last World War. Your relatives and mine on both sides of the line saw their own flesh and blood ripped apart and trampled upon.

Let us hope and pray to God that the present situation is one that we all will remember as being one we came so close to not remembering. This will prove that we are slowly but surely evolving on a plane of humanity and that we at least have enough intelligence to remember that the last fire we touched was hot—and that man is finally becoming a man and not a mere social animal, from which we strive to evolve.

James E. Murphy
New York City

TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE

To the Editor:

I am a laborer and believe it right and proper to campaign for the worker to join a responsible and honest union. Most of the members of unions affiliated with the C.I.O. are honest, God-fearing men as you and I, but I cannot say as much for some of the leaders. We know that most of the members in C.I.O. unions were threatened and coerced into joining by a few radicals and, once in, they now have a hard time getting out.

In my opinion, John L. Lewis does not deserve our support. But here is the problem: How can we support one without supporting the other? If Lewis could be segregated from the C.I.O., then we could campaign for all C.I.O. affiliates to clean house of Communists, radicals and troublemakers. In that way we could make of the C.I.O. an American organization led by American leaders with American ideals and accomplishments as their aims. An organization without a national constitution is like a boat without a rudder and sooner or later will come to naught. The U.S.A. and the A.F.L. could not have existed so long without their constitutions.

One-man control of a labor organization is labor dictatorship, and that is the end for which Mr. Lewis strives. This end can be more readily attained without a constitution — hence, the constitution-less C.I.O. If Mr. Lewis will agree to a constitution drawn up and adopted by the leaders of the various C.I.O. unions and submitted to the entire membership for acceptance or rejection—then we can support him. If he refuses to accept such a proposition, he should be erased from the picture as leader of the C.I.O. Then will be the time to campaign for C.I.O. unions to clean house and select a new leader.

—J.H.E.
Akron, Ohio

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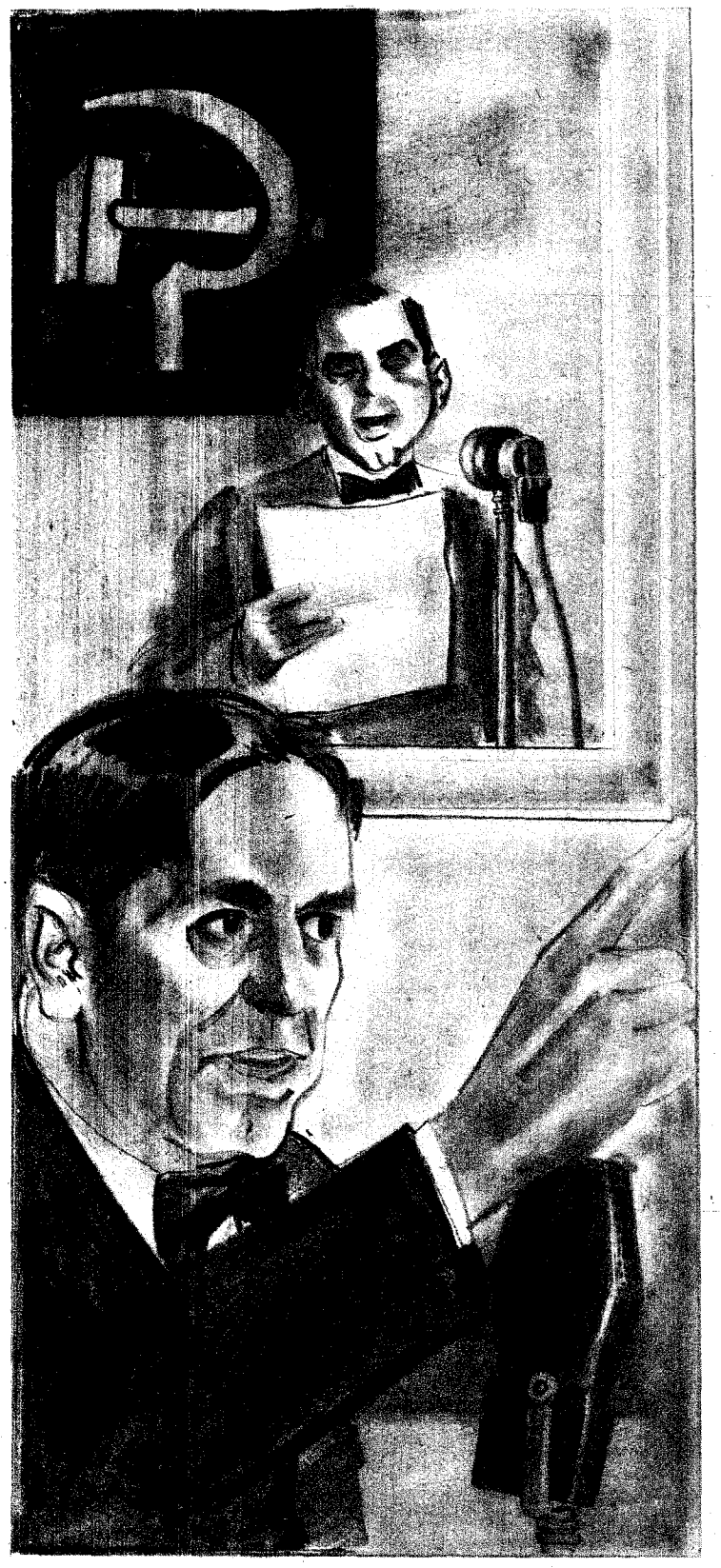

WE HAVE TAKEN THE FIRST BATTLEMENTS

FORWARD!

Father Coughlin has returned to the air. Against the organized opposition of un-American forces who fought to silence him, he faces once more his fellow-citizens and tells them the TRUTH.

The return of Father Coughlin to the microphone was made possible by the financial co-operation of thousands of social justice-minded men and women. Had it not been for the response of these Americans during the last five weeks, the Voice from Royal Oak would not have come.

UNLESS THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL AMERICANS AID THE BROADCASTING FUND, FATHER COUGHLIN CANNOT REMAIN ON THE AIR!

Rudely shoved from post to pillar, bluntly told he could NOT buy time on the national networks, Father Coughlin has been forced to organize his own chain of stations in order to tell Americans the TRUTH.

The Priest from Royal Oak was told in New York he could NOT purchase time over the national networks because he was "controversial." Communists can speak over the big combinations every night. Politicians can ring the welkin with their hypocritical assurances. Labor leaders in the clutch of the Red Dragon can abuse each other for being Trotskyites or Stalinites. But Father Coughlin must be silent because he might be "controversial."

This is a CHALLENGE to you as an American. Will you by your apathy and indifference help subversive influences in our national life to snuff out the TRUTH?

Ask yourself this question—NOW.

SOCIAL JUSTICE PUBLISHING CO., INC.
Royal Oak, Michigan.

I wish to contribute to the 1938-39 Broadcasting Fund so that Father Coughlin may continue to spread principles of social justice in America.

I hereby pledge the sum of $_____ which I am enclosing herewith or which I will send in two equal monthly remittances on or before Nov. 15 and on or before Dec. 15.

My Name Is _____

My Address Is _____

City or Town _____ State _____

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NATIONAL WEEKLY

Social Justice

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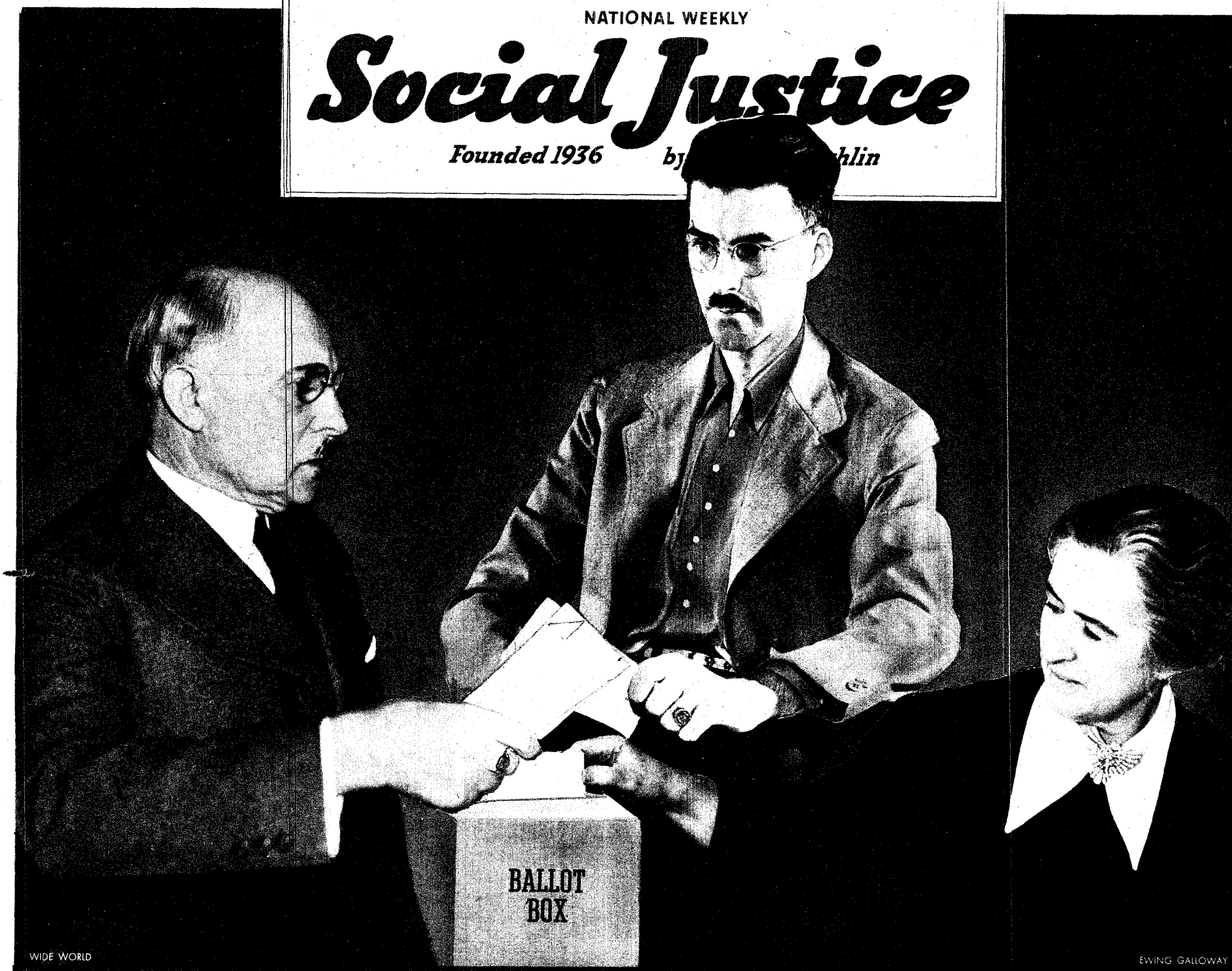

WIDE WORLD

EWING GALLOWAY

THE AMERICAN VOTER

OUR MAN OF THE WEEK is an American citizen—but definitely. The un-naturalized "reformers" who have spent their last several weeks spouting revolution and Czech intervention to peaceful Americans, are decidedly in the background this week as the field of democratic action is narrowed down *to Americans only*.

In 48 states and the District of Columbia, scores of performers and promisers—mostly the latter—are attempting to curry the voter's favor as he proceeds to the pursuance of his privilege as an American citizen. Once more his loud speaker crackles with the static of untalented mouthpieces of the obsequiously confident "ins" and the perfidiously critical "outs."

But the American voter has learned by this time that there is not very much difference in political parties. He knows that, after all, there are only two interpretations of implied constitutional powers — the liberal, advocated by the "ins" (the party in the saddle), and the restrictive, letter-of-the-law interpretation advocated by the "outs" (the party in the dog-house).

He knows, too, that whatever of greatness has emerged from men in politics has come from their ability to rise above the party which claimed them—rather than from uncompromising submission to it. Nobody but a micro-minded milksop ever penned panegyrics to a ventriloquist's dummy or a yes-man.

In some districts the primaries have given the voters something to elect. In others, unfortunately, his only choice is between a Democrat and a Republican, or perhaps, between administration and anti-administration sounding boards. What our man of the week does with his ballot will determine what America can expect of its national government in the next two years.

The working man who rises earlier on election morn to do his bit towards better government — the housewife who hurries her children off to school that she might better perform her civic duty—the businessman whose once-thriving establishment can very well spare him for the time that it takes to slip down to the voting booth—all realize that while politicians may write party platforms, it takes MEN to write good laws.

In them — our Man of the Week personified — rests the future's hope for democracy — the American Way.

THE MAN OF THE WEEK

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